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ALEX TOBIN 406 not out

By John Economos

Alex Tobin, Australia's and Adelaide Force's towering central defender and captain, last Saturday night played his 406th match in the NSL against the Brisbane Strikers at Suncorp Stadium.

Unfortunately for Tobin he didn't celebrate this momentous occasion as his beloved Adelaide crashed to its second consecutive defeat, this time going down

to John Kosmina's Strikers 2-1.

Tobin still lies second in the record books, for the longest serving player in the National Soccer League.

That prestigious milestone and honour is still firmly retained by Tobin's former club team-mate and real gentleman, the magnificent midfielder Sergio Melta.

Before retiring some four years ago, the slender and marvellous Melta racked up a colossal tally of 445 games in the NSL.

Today this is the highest number of matches played at top level by any player in any code of football in Australia.

Last Saturday night, Tobin was able to add one more game to his record to edge out the now third placed Mike O'Shea who had knocked up 405 games in the NSL.

The unyielding moustachioed O'Shea, also a central marker, ended his playing career with Wollongong City after having played for many years with his childhood dream club St George B.S.C.

The NSL's Five Most Experienced Players are:

Sergio Melta	445
Alex Tobin	406
Mike O'Shea	405
Theo Selemides	393
Gary Phillips	377

Tobin's current Club team-mate and former international cultured sweeper Milan Ivanovic, last Saturday night in Brisbane also lifted his tally of games to 300.

The 38 year old Ivanovic since joining Adelaide City in January 1989 has become only the seventh player to have knocked up a 'triple century' with the one Club.

An amazing statistic embossed in the record books of the NSL is that five out of the seven 'triple centuries' knocked-up with the one NSL Club, have all served with Zoran Matic's Adelaide City.

'Triple Centurions' with the one Club, are:

Sergio Melta (AC)	445
Alex Tobin (AC)	406
Steve Blair (SM)	338
Joey Mullen (AC)	333
Paul Trimboli (SM)	326
Milan Ivanovic (AC)	300
Bugsy Nyskohus (AC)	300



Alex Tobin: Pictured after the 1994 NSL Grand Final with his man of the match medal.

SOUTH SLAM MEDIA

Postecoglou says his team deserves better

By Bert van Bedaf

Usually quietly-spoken South Melbourne coach Angie Postecoglou let fly after his team had comprehensively beaten Northern Spirit 2-0 at Bob Jane Stadium last Sunday.

Postecoglou was asked why he was going to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and if he would be back on time for the match against the Football Kings in Auckland, NZ, this Sunday.

"I'll be flying back in time for the New Zealand game," the South coach said.

"Do you think, the (World Cup for clubs) draw (in Rio) is important enough to attend," he was asked next.

As Oceania champion, South Melbourne will be participating in the tournament in Brazil on January 5-14, with teams like Manchester United and Real Madrid.

Postecoglou and South president George Vasilopoulos flew to Rio yesterday (Monday) to attend the World Cup draw on Thursday. Postecoglou will fly to New Zealand afterwards to join the team in Auckland for the Kingz match.

"No, I think it's pretty trivial. That's why I'm flying halfway around the world," Postecoglou said sarcastically.



Angie Postecoglou

Then he drew breath and launched into some scathing criticism of the Melbourne media.

"Look, I have to get something off my chest. I'm not at all happy with the coverage we've been getting and particularly this week," Postecoglou said.

"You had a game between the top teams in this country and all we've been reading about on soccer is about a bloody beer garden."

Postecoglou referred to mid-week stories regarding Carlton's first game at Olympic Park, which featured a "True Blues" fans marquee behind the goal at the Swan St end.

"I'm getting pretty fed up. I'm nice and quiet about things. But this is getting ridiculous. I'm picking up a paper every day and I'm reading about a beer garden."

"You've got the [Australian NSL] equivalent of Manchester United and Chelsea playing out here and you guys want to write about Bradford versus bloody Wimbledon."

"When do we (South Melbourne) get the recognition we deserve. This team's been on top for two years. I'm flying to Brazil, because we're one of eight teams in the whole bloody world. We're not talking about the (now discontinued Victorian) Dockerty Cup, for god's sake."

"It's about time our players get the recognition they deserve."

"Especially here (in Victoria). This was a big game today and all I've been reading about is a beer garden."

"Maybe we should build a revolving restaurant across the road and let you write about that. It annoys me."

"We got some garbage last week, because we lost to Wollongong (2-1)."

Apparently because we lost focus. This team's never lost focus. You don't become champions over two years by losing focus, because you happen to be in another tournament (as Oceania champion).

Continued on page 2

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SOUTH SLAM MEDIA

Continued from Page 1

"We're focused and I'm going over to Brazil, because I believe it is the most important thing in club football in this country for years, if ever, and it's about time (we were given respect) in this state.

"When we go interstate, we get a lot of respect. But here, you pick up a paper and you're reading about some real garbage. I'm very disappointed.

"This was our first home game this year after winning the (back-to-back national) championship last year, after becoming Oceania champions and not one article is written about one of our players.

"We don't have the talent here? Maybe I've got to put a few hacks together (a ref-

erence to three 30-plus British players signed by Carlton), I don't know.

"But if there aren't enough stories about these young men (at South Melbourne), who are creating new standards every week they go out there, there's something wrong," Postecoglou said.

Northern Spirit coach Graham Arnold agreed with Postecoglou.

"I think Angie is 100 per cent right. He's got the best team in Australia. He's won two years in a row. These guys are doing an absolutely fabulous job. I don't have to motivate my players to play South Melbourne.

"The top team that Angie's got produc- ing week in week out deserve a lot of cred- it," Arnold said.

Lunch with Ronaldo

By Roy Hay

Olyroo goalkeeper Joey Didulica hasn't wasted his time getting into the big time since signing for Dutch giant Ajax Amsterdam, and lastweekend he had lunch with Brazilian superstar Ronaldo.

Brazil played Holland in a friendly match and after the game Didulica and some of his team-mates had a chance to meet the Brazilian players. Didulica came away with a pair of boots auto- graphed by the great man.

On the field, Didulica played in a practice match keeping a clean sheet in a one-nil win, but he picked up a

foot injury, though his brother John reports it does not appear too serious.

Meanwhile another Geelong player in Europe, Richie O'Sullivan is reported to have had a good trial with Doncaster Rovers in England. He has won the North Geelong best and fairest for 1999, from Ivan Ljubicic with keeper Marko Saric a close third.

The Melbourne Knights injury jinx of Geelong players continues, with Mijo Trupkovic pulling a hamstring early in the match against Parramatta Power on Friday. He joins John Didulica and Steven Tillinger on the injury list, though the elder Didulica is back in training twice a week.

CARLTON LET DOWN AGAIN

You've got to hand it to Carlton. No stone is left unturned. No expense is spared. No new idea is left untested. No effort is spared. The Blues deserve 10 points for putting zip into the off-field entertain- ment.

No singer could have given a better rendition of the national anthem than musical queen Debra Byrne.

The beer garden at the Swan St end was a hit with the True Blues fans and the fireworks after the match put a sparkling climax to a lack-lustre on-field performance.

The Friday night fixture at Olympic Park drew a crowd of 3105, which is about as much as what Carlton drew at Optus Oval on Saturdays or Sundays in past seasons.

What more can mainstream Carlton do to attract bigger crowds?

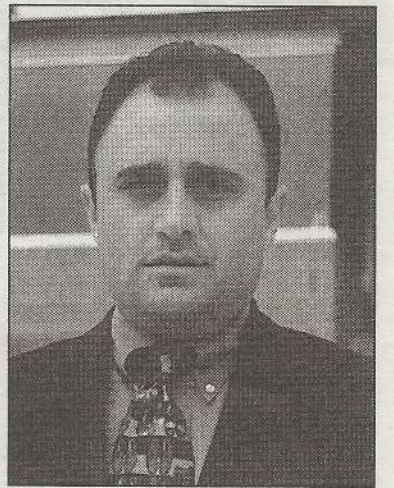
No one seems to know the answer other than putting on winning perfor- mances.

Carlton officials were aiming for 5000 spectators and they hope to increase the figure to 6000-plus as the season progresses.

Let down on both counts last Friday night, Carlton general manager Lou Sticca was in no mood to converse ami- cably.



When invited for comment, the volatile Sticca let fly at a reporter, call- ing him "a smart-arse", "a pig of a man", and "a disgrace to your profession" and had to be physically restrained before leaving the post-match media area.



Lou Sticca: Not in the mood to talk.

	Adelaide Force	Auckland Kingz	Brisbane	Canberra	Carlton	Gippsland	Marconi	Melbourne K	Newcastle	Northern Spirit	Parramatta	Perth Glory	Sth Melbourne	Sydney Oympic	Sydney United	Wollongong
Adelaide Force	X	9/13	20	15	5	32	19	34	18/26	30	3	22	7	28	24	11
Auckland Kingz	27/31	X	33	14	0-3	10	29	12	22	26	16	18	3	24	20	5/7
Brisbane Strikers	2-1	19	X	21	7	11/34	17	15	28	4/32	5	24	9	30	26	13
Canberra Cosmos	3-0	32	3	X	24/28	19	34	18	9	13	22	5	26	0-1/11	7	30
Carlton	23	15	25	6/10	X	1-1	21	4	13	17	8	27	30/32	19	11	34
Gippsland Falcons	14	28	16/29	33	20	X	12	31	5	9	18/24	0-1	22	7	3	26
Marconi Stallions	33	11	18	16	3	30	X	14	24	7/28	15	20/31	5	26	22	9
Melbourne Knights	16	30	0-1	17	22	13	32	X	7	11	20	3/26	24	9	5/33	28
Newcastle Breakers	8/17	4	10	27	31	23	6	25	X	21	29	12	16/33	15	14	2-2
Northern Spirit	12	8	14/22	31	18	27	25/10	10/29	31	X	33	16	20	5	15	24
Parramatta Power	21	34	23	4	26	6/17	1-1	2-1	11	19	X	7	28	13	9/30	32
Perth Glory	4	17	6	23	9	15	3-3/13	8/21	30	34	25	X	11	32	28	19
South Melbourne	25	21	27	8	12/14	4	23	6	19/34	2-0	29	10	X	17	31	15
Sydney Olympic	10	6	12	20/29	33	25	8	27	2-2	23	31	14	18	X	34	4/21
Sydney United	6	2-1	8	25	29	21	4	19/23	32	0-2	12/27	10	13	16	X	18
Wollongong Wolves	29	23/25	31	12	16	8	27	10	20	6	14	33	2-1	3/22	17	X

Numbers indicate which round the match will be played in. Home teams listed vertically.

MALONEY COMEBACK

By John Economos

Brad Maloney, Marconi Stallions' high scoring midfielder and captain, is expected to make his first appearance this season for his team on Sunday against the undefeated and second placed Carlton at Marconi Stadium.

This will be Marconi's first home match of the new season with the main game kicking off at 5pm and the Youth League starting at 7.15pm.

Both sides after two games are undefeated although Marconi are winless with Carlton having won their first match in Round One.

Club Marconi's marketing consultants have worked feverishly over the past three weeks to put on a very special afternoon for all the families attending.

Special attractions have been planned including a variety of entertainment before the main game as well as at halftime of Sunday's match.



Brad Maloney: Marconi's skipper.

The first 1,000 children will all receive free showbags, the 'Simpson Family' will be making two appearances, and there will be a jumping castle plus a mini farm for the kids.

As well, there will be prizes to be won, including a holiday to Disneyland for some lucky family of four.

Maloney who missed both of Marconi's matches to date, is expected to be rushed back into Eddie Krncevic's starting XI.

Greatly inspired by their 'driver' Andrew Marth in off their season in Round

One with an excellent 0-3 result in New Zealand against the Auckland Kingz.

But last Sunday at Melbourne's Olympic Park, Carlton were surprisingly nailed down to a 1-1 all draw at home by Jeff Hopkins' Gippsland Falcons.

Marconi's flying striker Sean Babić has hit red hot form having already scored three goals in two matches.

This season's highly confident Babić last Sunday added another two goals to his personal tally at Perth Oval, in Marconi's 3-3 away draw against their rivals in front of Round Two's largest crowd of 16,176.

The Stallions were down 3-2 against the Glory but with eleven minutes to go the mobile Babić sliced through to score his second goal and earn the Sydney team a most precious League point.

Marconi's ever-improving and hungry goalscoring defender, Chad Gibson, again scored last Sunday night against Perth.

In fact it was Gibson's wonderful free kick just three minutes into the second session that gave Marconi a 1-2 lead.



Andrew Marth: Carlton's driver.



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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

Brad Maloney, Marconi's high scoring midfielder and captain, did not travel to Perth last Sunday for the match against Glory.



Brad Maloney: Marconi's skipper still out of action.

'Bugsy' has not recovered from an injury picked up at training prior to Marconi's first match against the Parramatta Power.

Also missing from Marconi's line-up was centre back Dominic Longo, out serving a one week suspension after have being sent off last week against the Power in Round 1.

Previous to last Sunday, Marconi has failed to beat the Perth Glory since the Sandonians entered the League three years ago.

◆◆◆

Scott Baillie, Sydney Olympic's cracking

central marker, almost didn't start in the match in Round One against the Newcastle Breakers.



Scott Baillie: Olympic's centre-back.

Just minutes prior to the kick off, Olympic officials had organised a fireworks display for the crowd which was launched from just behind each goal.

As the fireworks were ignited, and with both teams lined up on the Grandstand side line, one rocket at low level burst into four pieces in midair.

One of the fragmented flared pieces decided to fizzle across the pitch area and snaked its way as if guided by remote control to strike 'Scotty' on the right leg.

Despite 'Scotty' not wearing asbestos socks, he started the game to play 'asbestos' he could, and in the process giving a cracking display for his team.

Scotty again was full of sparks last Sunday as the sturdy defender saved Olympic with a win at the Bruce Stadium.

With just six minutes left on the clock and the scoreboard showing double zeroes, the blond defender ventured upfield to heroically climb and meet a Marcus Phillips' free kick to crash in his header and score the solitary goal in Olympic's away match against the Canberra Cosmos.

◆◆◆

Ralph Bove, a former Sydney Olympic Youth player and currently in Raul Blanco's Olympic Games squad, has signed up with Scottish Premier club Dundee United.

The past two seasons Bove played in Holland with S.C. Heerenveen.

◆◆◆

A leading Soccer Australia official stated to 'Good Oil' last weekend that Brazil will in fact be coming here after all in November and will be sending a top side to Australia for the two

By **John Economos**

international matches.

The official, stated: "It probably won't be the very first XI they have, but will possibly be a good side which could include Rivaldo and Dunga.

Well 'Good Oil' here automatically questions, has Barcelona been informed about Rivaldo's pending journey 'Down Under'?

And as far as the absolutely fabulous former Brazilian World Cup captain Dunga, didn't he announce his retirement from the national team LAST YEAR in France at the last World Cup?

Stand by for a 'double Brazilian miracle'. If that's possible.

◆◆◆

Last Friday night at the giant, cylindrically structured Parking Station No 1, situated adjacent to Sydney's new Olympic Stadium, a well known Soccer journo was tearing his hair out trying to find just where the hell he had parked his car prior to covering the match between the Parramatta Power and the Melbourne Knights.

The said journo frantically searched up and down all parking levels.

Where on earth had he parked in this huge 'meccano set' looking parking station?

All he clearly remembered as he drove in, and was being hastily waved through by attendants guiding him up the constantly spiralling ramps, was the large figure '8' painted in clear bold black paint which was then

circled with red paint up against the walls.

The figure '8' constantly appeared on the right hand side of the spiralling walls as he drove towards the sky with a mile of cars behind pushing him in a constantly northerly direction.

What however was not apparent to the Soccer journo, was the fact that the plain figure '8' did NOT denote "Level 8", but was the set speed limit on the upward ramps.

By midnight the by now finally ended up on the roof, (where of course he had NOT parked). But very much to his mental relief, he found no less than 43 other people (not Soccer journos) with twisting necks in the very same predicament also looking frantically around for their cars.

All the painter had to do, was add the letters 'k.p.h.' immediately after the figure '8' to prevent heaps of stress for the bewildered public and journo.

◆◆◆

Ivan Kelic, the Melbourne Knights' goal grabber, failed to start the match last Friday night at Sydney's new mega-structured Olympic Stadium.

But with 11 minutes to go, the Knights' coach Josip Biskic reluctantly brought on Kelic in a desperate attempt to try and draw the match against the Parramatta Power.

Biskic had wisely delayed and retained Kelic on the bench because the giant striker during the week had five stitches inserted to his face.

No, not from Soccer, but from an accident suffered at work on a construction site.



Ivan Kelic: Stitches to his face.

◆◆◆

Northern Spirit players, Robbie Slater, Paul Henderson, Phil Moss, Troy Cranney and Clayton Zane, did their part for the northern Sydney community taking part in the annual Manly Hospital Bed Race.

The event is held to raise funds for the troubled Manly Hospital with the five Spirited Soccer players pushing a hospital bed up and down the Manly Corso.



Troy Cranney: Spirit's technical midfielder.

Such keenness for participation underlines the manner the Northern Spirit strives to help the local community, which is just another significant reason why the Club commands big crowds for all home matches.

Some 15,000 plus are expected this Friday night at North Sydney Oval when the Spirit clashes with Lee Sterrey's Newcastle Breakers.

◆◆◆

Tony Popovic and **Hayden Foxe,** the two Australian internationals currently playing in the J-League in Japan under former national coach Eddie Thomson, last Sunday were selected in a 'World XI' to play against a Japan XI, an annual 'Dream' match in Tokyo.

The 'World XI' was comprised of all foreign players playing in the J-League.

◆◆◆

Josip Skoko currently playing in the first division in Croatia, and is captain at that of high profiled club Hajduk Split, has recently been much in demand by foreign clubs, including three from England plus another from Italy.

But Hajduk has already slapped a hefty \$5 million fee on Skoko.

However his manager informed 'Good Oil' during the week that he expects this fee to be drastically reduced come December which could see the lad from Geelong in Victoria move house to even Spain.



Josip Skoko: Expected to soon leave Croatia.

◆◆◆

The Northern Spirit may soon make a northerly crusade to Gosford on the Central Coast of NSW to play a couple of 'home games' there as well as helping to spread the gospel of Top Soccer in the country towns.

Spirit officials already have had dialogue with the Gosford Council about using Grahame Park for two NSL matches.

A decision is expected within two weeks.

The revamped NSL draw has seen the Spirit now surface with two extra home games. Hence the idea of a couple of matches out of Sydney bears credence.

But far more to the point, last season during the Christmas holiday period, Spirit crowds at North Sydney Oval understandably suffered.



Hayden Foxe: in action for 'World XI' side in Japan last Sunday.



Dunga: Brazil's fabulous former World Cup skipper.

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

The Gosford area being a very popular holidaying scene during public holidays, would thus be a most ideal solution.

Something like the 'Mountains to Mohammed'?

The Spirit is due to play Brisbane Strikers at North Sydney Oval on Sunday 2nd January before taking on Sydney United at North Sydney Oval on Friday January the 7th.

Grahame Park has seating facilities to easily swallow up 25,000 fans.

across to his strike-mate John Buonavoglia who took on the 'keeper and scored.

The week before against Sydney Olympic in Round 1 at Belmore Stadium, Harper not only set up the first goal for the Breakers, but scored the vital equaliser to salvage the Novocastrians a precious League point.

'Harps' maybe be a bit slower in recent years, but far wiser and a pleasure to play with, just ask his team-mates or coach.

trials in England with Arsenal.

Last season Byrnes, a Sydney Olympic junior, was at the NSW Academy.



Mark Byrnes: Signed by the Power.

Christian Vieri, Inter Milan's most expensive goal-hunter in the world, last week scored a great 'double' in Italy. He was voted last season's best player in Italian Soccer whilst his former club Lazio was also voted best team in Serie A ahead of League champions A.C. Milan.



Christian Vieri: Allan Border's \$74 million mate.



Andy Harper: Yet again with intelligence and constructiveness.

Andy Harper last Friday night in the battle against visiting Wollongong Wolves at the Breakers' Stadium was at it again with his intelligence and constructiveness.

With the scores locked in at 1-1, Harper nine minutes after the break and with perfect peripheral vision, perfectly headed a ball

The Solomon Islands Olympic team is currently in Australia and based at the NSW Soccer Federation's State Soccer Centre at Valentine Park.

The NSW Institute of Sport squad, managed by the NSW Soccer Federation, recently received an invitation to an Under 17s international tournament to be staged in Chile in January.

Hosted by the Catholic University of Santiago the tournament includes Under 17s National teams from Turkey, the U.S.A. and Chile, plus Club teams from Bayer Leverkusen, Cerro Porteno (Paraguay), River Plate, and Universidad Catolica.

Australia's current Under 17s squad includes no less than eleven players from the powerful NSW Institute of Sport side.

Australia's senior squad is expected to take part in another tournament in Chile in February.

Goalkeeper Paul Henderson's popularity with the Northern Spirit fans has been sustained from last season.

In Round 1 against Sydney United, spotted in the crowd at Edensor Park was a Spirit fan cradling a large Paul Henderson doll.

The doll was all done up with black hair, cap, wearing a Spirit goalkeeper's jumper with No 22, plus emblazoned across the back was written 'Hendo'.

By John Economos

afternoon where the Stallions take on the second placed undefeated Carlton.

Club Marconi has meticulously planned many free attractions for the kids attending this big match.

The first 1,000 children will receive a free show bag.

Between 4:15pm to 4:45pm The Simpsons Family, Bart and his mob, will make a Stage Appearance and again at halftime.

There will be a jumping castle, mini farm, balloons and prizes to be won as well as a heap of fire eaters trying to break the world record.

John Kosmina, the Brisbane Strikers' coach, despite having lost at least seven players during the off season, including experienced playing staff such as Sean Cranney, Steve Laybutt and Chay Hews, after the first two rounds of the League has his side sitting at the top of the NSL ladder being the only team to have recorded two wins.

The former tenacious Australian World Cup captain, always one to never complain, has notched up a 0-1 victory over the Melbourne Knights in the first round and backed up last Friday night with a worthy 2-1 victory over Adelaide City at the Suncorp Stadium.

It's been a long time between drinks seeing the Queenslanders leading the League.

Come Friday night, Kosmina's Strikers travel to the Bruce Stadium where they clash with another vastly improved side this season, Tommy Sermanni's Canberra Cosmos.



Paul Henderson: Spirit's wicket keeper, with borderless popularity.

Zoran Matic, Adelaide City's uncompromising boss, is about to make some drastic changes to his first team.

Over the week-end Matic stated to 'Good Oil' there are two or three players, and experienced ones at that, who have not been pulling their weight.

"All three are on borrowed time.

"Now with two losses from two games, time has run out," ended Matic.

The 'Black and Whites' who this season will play all of their 17 home matches on Friday nights at the revamped Hindmarsh Stadium, this Friday evening take on visiting Parramatta Power.



Zoric Matic: Has now taken out the whip.

Adelaide to date are pointless whilst the Power are undefeated.

Pre match entertainment starting at 6.30pm has been

planned for Friday's game, which includes a live band plus children's entertainment as a prelude to the main event kicking off at 8pm.



CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB

"SOCCER TRIALS"

The Berries are proud to announce that the Year 2000 will herald the Club's return to the NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE!

With this in mind Youth Trials (U/13s — U/16s) will be held on the outside grounds at St George Stadium (Bestic St, Rockdale) on the following dates:

● **YOUTH TRIALS (U/13s — U/16s):**
October 10, 17, 24, 31 (9am-12pm)

● **CADET TRIALS (U/11s — U/12s):**
Will also be at St George Stadium on the above dates also.

● **SENIOR TRIALS (1sts, U/21s, U/18s)**
Camden Oval (St Peters)
October 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31 (6pm)

For any further enquiries please ring the Club Administrator Laki Konistis on

☎ **0411 191 815**

MARCONI SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE TRIAL DATES

GRADE 13
BORN
1987

6pm TUESDAY 12th OCTOBER 1999
6pm THURSDAY 14th OCTOBER 1999
9am SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER 1999
9am SUNDAY 17th OCTOBER 1999

GRADE 14
BORN
1986

6pm TUESDAY 19th OCTOBER 1999
6pm THURSDAY 21st OCTOBER 1999
9am SUNDAY 24th OCTOBER 1999

GRADE 15
BORN
1985

6pm TUESDAY 26th OCTOBER 1999
6pm THURSDAY 28th OCTOBER 1999
9am SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER 1999

GRADE 16
BORN
1984

6pm TUESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 1999
6pm THURSDAY 4th NOVEMBER 1999
9am SUNDAY 7th NOVEMBER 1999

MARCONI CADET LEAGUE TRIAL DATES

GRADE 11
BORN
1989

6pm MONDAY 11th OCTOBER 1999
6pm WEDNESDAY 13th OCTOBER 1999
10am SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER 1999

GRADE 12
BORN
1988

6pm MONDAY 18th OCTOBER 1999
6pm WEDNESDAY 20th OCTOBER 1999
10am SATURDAY 23rd OCTOBER 1999

MARCONI JUNIORS TRIAL DATES

GRADE 10
BORN
1990

6pm MONDAY 25th OCTOBER 1999
6pm WEDNESDAY 27th OCTOBER 1999
10am SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER 1999

GRADE 9
BORN
1991

6pm MONDAY 25th OCTOBER 1999
6pm WEDNESDAY 27th OCTOBER 1999
10am SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER 1999

REGISTRATION DAY

GRADE 7
BORN
1993

11am SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER 1999

ALL TRIALS AND REGISTRATION DAYS TO BE HELD AT MARCONI. JUNIORS TRIALS ARE FOR CLUB MARCONI MEMBERS' KIDS ONLY (Conditions Apply)

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GLADESVILLE HORNSBY WOMEN'S SOCCER CLUB

TRIALS FOR SEASON 2000

Players interested in Women's State League soccer are invited to trial for G.H.W.S. KOALAS WSL teams. This will be our second year in the competition and we are looking to cement a long term future. Trials will be held on consecutive **Sundays 24th and 31st October, 10am-12noon at Field 11, Meadowbank Park, Meadowbank.**

Further Information Available from
Adrian Jones 9808 2093 or 0418 406 800



SOCCER TRIALS 2000 SEASON

A.C. UNITED SOCCER CLUB

State League Division 1

U18s 12.00pm, U21s 2.00pm, 1st Grade 4.00pm
Sundays, November 7th, 14th, and 21st, 1999
Contact: Frank Falcone on (M) 0411 381 969 or
Nick Poreca (M) 0416 109 527

Youth League Division 1

U13s 9.30am, U14s 11.30am, U15s 1.30pm and U16s 3.30pm
Saturdays, November 6th, 13th, and 20th, 1999

Cadet League

U11s 9.00am, U12s 10.30am
Sundays, November 7th and 14th, 1999
Contact: John Palmano for Youth League and Cadet League
9636 8417 (H) or (M) 018 22 1131
Terri Forbes (H) 9725 7455

Southern Districts Division 1

U9s, 5.00pm, U10s 6.30pm on
Tuesday November 16th, Thursday November 18th, and then U9s
9.00am U10s 10.30am Sunday, November 21st, 1999
Contact: Michael Lavorato (H) 9823 6232
(M) 0412 297 937

ALL TRIALS TO BE HELD AT THE ABRUZZI FIELD AT
11 ELIZABETH STREET, WETHERILL PARK



Nepean District Soccer Football Association Inc

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE SUPER LEAGUE DIVISION

TRIALS FOR PLAYERS FOR THE 2000 SEASON
ARE NOW RUNNING
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHTS
7.30PM
**COOK PARK, WILSON ST,
ST MARYS**

ALL ENQUIRIES TO THE COACH,
DON GOMEZ ON 0412 089 728

OR
THE SECRETARY ON 0416 215 612

LARGEST IN AUSTRALIA

By Otto Bader

Wollongong Wolves supporters club - also known as the 'Red and White Army' - has come up with a huge banner, showing the Wolves emblem, measuring 12 metres x 12 metres.

The original idea was fostered by Phil Renwick and the club banner is being spread out before kick-off at home games, covering the centre circle.

According to General Manager

Graeme Haney it is the largest known club banner in Australian soccer.

Meanwhile, New Wolves recruit giant defender David Cervinski was impressed with the win over champion South Melbourne in their first game of the season. He could find it hard to command a spot in the

starting line-up on a regular basis.

There are also young players pushing for places in Nick Theodorakopoulos' 21 man squad.

Travelling fans supporting the Wolves away in Newcastle on Friday night reported a very tight game, a perhaps lucky draw for the visitors.

The Breakers first goal came off a corner, disputed by the Wolves' keeper, getting himself booked unnecessarily and losing concentration.

The eventual



David Cervinski

equaliser for the Wolves scored by striker Saso Petrovski with an overhead bicycle kick had to be seen to believe it, a gem of a goal.

GAMBLERS CUP WIN

By Glenn Davis

GOLD COAST 2 TARINGA 2

The Gold Coast Gamblers finished the premier league season on a high note by downing Taringa Rovers 3-1 in the Buffalo Queensland Cup final at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Gold Coast, who started their second season in the local league disastrously, finished the year with a wet sail after being runners up in both the premiership and grand final.

The Gamblers, playing without striker Peter Dwyer who had signed with the Brisbane Strikers, dominated Taringa and deservedly went to a 1-nil lead after 15 minutes.

Gamblers midfielder Peter

Grierson scored the opener when his shot took a wicked deflection over the head of Taringa keeper Mal Van De Graaf.

Grierson had another chance five minutes later after combining in a one-two with midfielder Mark Bennett but this time Van De Graaf managed to save another deflection.

Taringa had a chance to draw level midway through the first half when Gamblers' Michael Richardson brought down Dmitri Theochari for a controversial penalty.

However, Taringa's normally reliable Shaun Molenda skied the spot kick over the crossbar.

Taringa began to play their way back into the game and eventually drew the equaliser on the half hour when Gamblers' keeper Jamie Irwin fumbled a powerful Des Hughes shot giving

ing Scott Robertson an easy tap in.

The Gold Coast hit back with a touch of luck five minutes later to again take the lead.

Gold Coast defender Brett Adams struck a long ball through for striker Troy Greenwood who was challenged on the edge of the box by keeper Van De Graaf.

Unfortunately, the ball from Van De Graaf's clumsy challenge rebounded out wide to Adams Evans who drove a left foot shot home into an empty goal with the keeper well stranded.

It was an even affair after the break with both sides missing several opportunities until Adams grabbed the Gamblers third goal one minute from time with an 18 metre strike.

BANKRUPT WEST IN CUP FINAL

By Allan Crisp

The irony has not been lost on the Adelaide soccer fraternity. Doomed State League club West Adelaide has defied all odds to qualify for the Federation Cup final against Elizabeth City.

As we went to Press, negotiations were in train for South Australian soccer's senior knock-out trophy competition final to be played as a curtain-raiser to Friday night's National Soccer League just between Adelaide Force and Parramatta Power at the revamped Hindmarsh Stadium.

Tragically, West Adelaide, the State League arm of the

club, together with the club's powerful junior set-up, must share the same fate as the NSL outfit, the destitute Adelaide Sharks.

But West, coached by former Brazilian professional, Airon Andrioli, has the glorious opportunity to exit in a blaze of cup glory when they lock horns with Alby Kidd's rampant Rams.

West ensured it would not sink without a trace when on Saturday it toppled Federation Cup holders Blues Eagles 1-0 with a golden goal winner from Paul Tsoukalas.

The semi-final upset was engineered in the third minute of extra-time after substitute Jimmy Baltidis floated over a cross for Tsoukalas to apply

the finishing touch.

Blue Eagles chances of retaining the cup they had previously won five times, were shot down in a frantic three minutes when skipper Joe Cutillo and defender Tony Zito were red carded.

Elizabeth, meanwhile, geared for its first Federation Cup success by downing Premier League grand finalists Port-Lion Pirates 3-0 in the second semi-final.

Andy Thomson, Sydney United trialist, Daniel Reynolds and Aaron Westervelt were the executioners who blazed the path for coach Kidd to have a crack at the club he previously starred with both as a player and as a coach.

THE XVI SYDNEY SOCCER WORLD CUP 1999

THIRD ROUND

Saturday 9 October

U16s Malta 2-1 Australia
+35 Turkey 2-4 China
+35 Argentina 4-2 England
AA China 4-2 Ireland
AA Argentina 4-1 Malta Gozo
AA Iraq 4-0 Palestine

Sunday 10 October

+35 Uruguay 1-1 Peru

-16 Uruguay P-P Portugal
-16 Lebanon 0-2 Serb
+35 Sth Africa 2-1 Portugal
+35 NZ 1-3 England 3
AA Portugal 0-10 Lebanon

FOURTH ROUND

16 Oct. (Bonnyrigg Eagles Field)

U16s Chile v Portugal 10.30am
U16s Lebanon v Malta 12.00pm
+35 Australia v China 1.30pm

+35 Chile v Argentina 3.00pm
AA Argentina v Cyprus 4.30pm
AA Chile v Lebanon 6.30pm

Sunday 17 October

+35 Peru v Portugal 10.30am
U16s Turkey v Uruguay 12.00pm
+35 Uruguay v S Africa 1.30pm
AA Turkey v Romania 3.00pm
AA Spain v Malta Gozo 5.00pm
AA Australia v Malta 7.00pm

WOMEN'S SOCCER ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES

ROUND 3 (OCTOBER 8)

VICTORIA VISION 1 NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 1
N NSW: Praszczalek, Salisbury, Powell, Randall, Nutley, Baker, Forman, Neilson, McMinn (Crawford) (Gill), Palozzi (Alley), Hughes (King).
Victoria: Barbieri, Davis, Wright, Saville (McEvoy), Oostdam, Walker (Powell), Digiammarco, Nichols (Kuralay), Hamilton, Terek, Fitzgerald.

SASI PIRATES 0 QAS STING 0

SASI: Trimboli, Vozzo, Winn, Morris (Baker), May, Black, Spagnoletti, Stocco (Halfpenny), Morrison (Gawlik), Matto, Thomas.
QAS: Nichols, McShea, Gegenhuber, Garven, Nolan (Mann), Maza, Duus, Hohnke, Dunne, Ferguson, Dawney (Mitchell).

NSW SAPPHIRES 4 ACTAS CANBERRA ECLIPSE 1

NSW: Kell, Rockall, Tann-Darby, Klessattel, K Collins, Golebiowski, L Collins, Burgess (Poulton), Garriock, Cavanagh, Carney.
ACTAS: Beattie (Tifan), PC Hepperlin, Bartlett, Butler, Wainwright (Borucinski), Staniforth (Foxhill), Karp (D Hepperlin), Wilson, Madden (Pelle), Doyle, Channing.

ROUND 3 (OCTOBER 10)

NORTHERN NSW PRIDE 2 SASI PIRATES 2

N NSW: Praszczalek, Salisbury, Powell, Randall, Nutley, King (Gill), Baker, Forman, Neilson, Crawford (McMinn), Hughes.
SASI: Wheeler, Vozzo, Winn, Gawlik, May (Baker), Spagnoletti, Black, Stocco (Halfpenny), Morrison, Thomas (Trimboli), Matto.

QAS STING 5 ACTAS CANBERRA ECLIPSE 1

QAS: Nichols, McShea, Gegenhuber (Blackwell), Garven, Nolan (Hohnke), Duus, Tramacchi (Mann), Maza (Dawney), Ferguson, Thornton, Dunne (Mitchell).
ACTAS: Beattie, Bartlett, Butler (Karp), PC Hepperlin, Wainwright (Borucinski), Foxhill, D Hepperlin, Madden (Pelle), Wilson, Doyle, Channing (Staniforth).

NSW SAPPHIRES 4 VICTORIA VISION 1

NSW: Kell (Cavarretta), Rockall, Tann-Darby, K Collins, Klessattel, L Collins (Parker), Cavanagh (Davies), Golebiowski, Garriock, Burgess (Poulton), Carney (Watson).
Victoria: Barbieri, Davis, Wright, Saville, Oostdam, Hamilton, Digiammarco, Nichols (Muscat), Powell (McEvoy), Terek, Fitzgerald.

POINTS LADDER

NSW 12, SASI 8, N NSW 5, QAS 5, Victoria 2, ACTAS 0

ROUND 5 SCHEDULE

October 16: Victoria v ACTAS
3pm, Epping Soccer Stadium
October 16: QAS v N NSW
3pm, Richards Stadium
October 17: SASI v NSW
1pm, Hindmarsh Stadium

NSL SOCCER ON SYDNEY RADIO

The 'Soccer Club' Radio Show airs on 2000FM every Sunday night from 10pm-11pm.

The Sydney-based community radio station can be found on 98.5FM and reaches as far as Nowra in the south, the Blue Mountains in the west and Gosford in the north.

Presented by ABSW's Stuart Jones, the show gives an in depth analysis of the weekend's National Soccer League games.

Every week there is a different guest presenter from a National Soccer League club.

Guest presenters have included Parramatta Power's Dave Barrett and Northern Spirit's Paul Henderson.

The show also features news about the Socceroos, Olyroos, Young Socceroos, Joeys, Aussies Abroad and some of the overseas leagues including the English Premier League and Italy's Serie A.

CLEVELAND STREET BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

40th Anniversary Reunion Dinner (1960-2000)

By John Economos

Today (Tuesday), a most nostalgic gathering is due to take place at Sydney's Hilton Hotel when a group of seven men who have not seen each other for 39 plus years, will congregate to have lunch.

After 39 years?

The very sole reason for the gathering by these seven after so many years, is that they all had something very much in common which over the years they have all treasured with indelible fond memories.

The common factor binding all seven men was the fact that back in 1956 they all enrolled at Sydney's famous Cleveland Street Boys' High School to commence their secondary scholastic studies.

School captain John Rabe, vice captain Johnny Warren, Peter Deacon, Graeme Stevens, Bob Bolin, Tony Durbin and John Economos, are all old 'Cleo Boys' and all will today converge at the Hilton in Sydney.

Peter Deacon was an outstanding scholar. He has spent countless hours over the past few months on his relentless search in tracing down ex Clevo students.

His tenacious research has uncovered past 'Cleo' boys spread all over Australia as well as in New Guinea. The reason?

On Friday the 3rd of March next year, Mr Deacon has meticulously and laboriously blueprinted a monstrous and hopefully most memorable event to take place at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia in Sydney.

This will be a formal dinner to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the first intake of students (1956) at Cleveland Street Boys' High School.

Over the past four months, Mr Deacon embarked upon the herculean task of tracking down, after 40 years,

almost 128 former Clevo Students to attend next March's incredible and nostalgic Dinner.

One old Clevo boy that Mr Deacon somehow came up with is, aged 72 and expressed a very deep desire to attend the Dinner.

Clevo Sporting Legends.

Cleveland Street Boys' High was nothing short of being a most remarkable school. It was a school that with monotonous regularity produced exceptional sporting heroes of Australia.

Immortal heroes of the high calibre of W.A. (Bert)



John Warren:
Former
Australian World
Cup captain.

Oldfield (world record wicket-keeper during the great Don Bradman era), or Alan Kippax (cricket), Nick Shehadie (dynamic captain of Australian Rugby Union), and since knighted by the Queen, Olympic swimming legend Boy Charlton, or Commonwealth Games wrestler and swimmer in Harold Hardwick.

In more recent times there's been Johnny Warren, an ex Clevo boy who went on to captain Australia from 1967 to 1970 when a tragic knee injury temporarily impeded his international career. In 1972 with his knee fully reconstructed, Warren made a dramatic comeback to fight his way back into the Australian team that ultimately busted its way into the 1974 World Cup finals in the then called West Germany.

Not only was Warren an outstanding Soccer player, but an excellent scholar.

What most people never got to know was the fact that Warren was an absolutely marvellous cricketer.



John Economos:
ABSW journalist.

A genuine all rounder of high quality with the bat, Warren was blessed as a magnificent right arm wrist leg breaker.

Peter Deacon, himself an outstanding scholar at 'Cleo' during the era of 1956-60, brought huge honour to the school.

At the age of 41 no less, Peter together with Pakistan's legend Jahangir Khan battled their way on the international courts to win the Worlds Doubles Championships at squash in 1985.

Graeme Stevens, today an accountant, was a solid student and an excellent sportsman especially on the basketball courts, in Soccer as well as in cricket.

But most strangely enough, after leaving school, Graeme unbelievably took up Rugby Union with incredible results.

Within a very short period of time, Graeme graduated to play for Drummoyne ('the Reds') in the first grade competition of Sydney.

Stevens as a powerful running inside centre for Drummoyne in the 70s, played with Rugby greats, such as internationals forwards Greg Davies and John Freedman.

And as far as Economos was concerned, well he never was able to achieve what other Clevo sporting legends did.

His forte at school was cricket and Union, then went on to study Economics and Accountancy.

For the past 19 years he's been a writer with ABSW, but nevertheless still a very proud ex-Clevo student.

Should any reader of ABSW know of any old students that had attended Cleveland Street Boys' High, please inform them of the pending historic 'Cleo Reunion'.

For further details to attend this once in a life-

time 40th Anniversary 'School Reunion Dinner' on Friday March 3rd next year, urgently please make contact with Co ordinator Mr Peter Deacon on (02) 9799 3712 or on Email ppdeacon@bigpond.com.



**Eastern Suburbs
Wanderers**

SUPER LEAGUE

TRIALS

UNDER 18s

Wednesday: 6th October & 13th October 7.00pm
Saturdays: 9th October & 16th October 10.00am

UNDER 21s

Thursdays: 7th October & 14th October 7.00pm
Saturdays: 9th October & 16th October 12noon

FIRST GRADE

Players wishing to join our First Grade
contact: our Head Coach:

John Calleja on 0408 671 246

Venue for all trials
University of NSW, Sporting Complex
Anzac Pde, Little Bay

For further details contact:

**Peter Chiarello on 0413 422 201 or
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CARLTON'S JERSEY PRESENTATION



Carlton recently held their official jersey presentation. Pictured from left are the club's British imports Mike Conroy, Stuart Slater and Dave McPherson receiving their jerseys from coach Stuart Munro.

FORGOTTEN MAN RETURNS

By Graham Cooke

David Milin, Canberra Cosmos' forgotten man, has been given a late and unexpected chance to revive his National League career.

The 24-year-old Canberra-based utility player was signed by the club so close to the opening of the season that he could not be registered in time for the first match against Adelaide Force.



Tom Sermanni: Believes David Milin has a role to play.

Even so, coach Tom Sermanni, still believes Milin has a role to play, even when Brian Hamilton and David Winnie arrive from Scotland later this month.

And that's because he is a tall, left-sided player who can fill positions from full back to striker — facts not lost on Sermanni who played an important role in the former Joey's development as coach of the Canberra Metros in the NSW Super League at the beginning of the decade.

Milin is no stranger to the big time — as well as representing Australia at under-17 level, he has 14 NSL appearances with the Cosmos dating from the 1996-97 season.

However, he has never felt confident enough to devote himself to soccer full time, and when new coach Branko Culina demanded just that of his squad at the beginning of the 1997-98 season, he opted to return to local soccer.

Sermanni has relaxed that ruling and now Milin is ready to test the National League water again.



AUSSIES ABROAD

LG Socceroo **STAN LAZARIDIS** could be sidelined until the end of month after tearing a hamstring in Birmingham City's 2-0 win against QPR on September 25.

Former Young Socceroo goalkeeper **VINCE MATASSA**, who plays for English non-league club Basingstoke Town, has returned to his home town of Perth to get married.

LG Socceroo and Coventry City striker **JOHN ALOISI** continues to struggle with a calf injury.

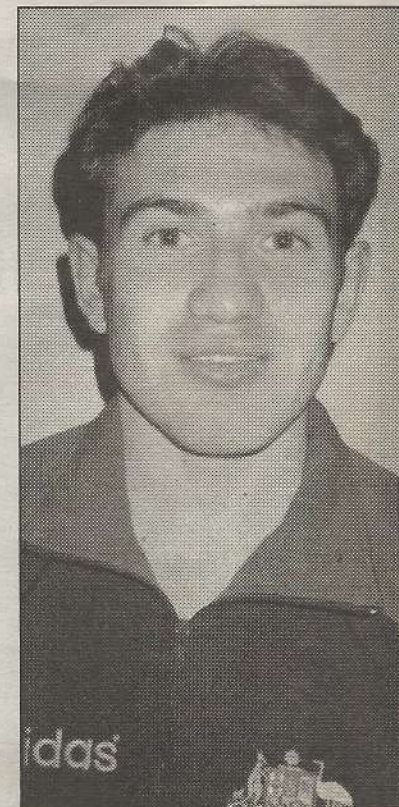
Watford midfielder **RICHARD JOHNSON** has resumed training following medial ligament damage he suffered against Liverpool on August 14.

Crystal Palace playmaker **CRAIG FOSTER** is scheduled to return from a knee injury in November of this year.


Olyroo and Empoli midfielder **VINCE GRELLA** celebrated his 20th birthday last Tuesday (October 5).

Both **MARK SCHWARZER** and **JOE MARRAPODI** turned 27 and 24 respectively last Wednesday (October 6). LG Socceroo **MARK VIDUKA** celebrated his 24th birthday last Saturday (October 9)

KEVIN MUSCAT'S wife Debbie last week gave birth to their first child, Olivia Tyler.



Stan Lazaridis: Injury problems.



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SOUTH OVERLOAD

HEAVY SCHEDULE WILL TEST CHAMPIONS

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne is bracing itself for one of the most hectic seasons in National Soccer League history.

The world championship for clubs will be held in Brazil in January 5-15, which will add to the load of 34 matches in the national league season.

South is likely to miss two home matches against local rival Carlton (January 2) and Wollongong (January 9), and away to Newcastle (January 14).



"It won't impact on us between now and then. It will be a normal season for us. But it may become a heavier schedule for us after the world tournament, because of matches we'll need to catch up on," South captain Paul Trimboli admitted.

Trimboli said he was looking forward to the challenge of defending the back-to-back titles, although he and the players had put those victories behind them.

"There are a couple of new teams in the competition (Parramatta Power and Auckland Kingz) and in such a strong league winning the title again will be difficult," Trimboli said.



South Melbourne captain Paul Trimboli.
PICTURED BY RICHARD KREIDER

"But really those two titles are gone. We're starting at the same level (as other clubs) and with the same goal in mind of winning the championship."

"We're confident that we'll do well. But there's no extra weight. It's to our advantage that we have a settled team and we know what it takes to win the championship."

TRIMMERS CLUB

South Melbourne has introduced the Trimmers Club for Under-12s, named after captain Paul Trimboli.

"Membership is free. It's a chance for under 12 boys and girls to get themselves closer to our Soccerroo and club legend," South general manager Damien Phillips said.

"By becoming a member of the Trimmers Club, youngsters will get coaching tips from Trimmers, enter competitions and receive prizes and get free entry to our home matches at Bob Jane Stadium," he said.

South Melbourne travels to New Zealand for their encounter with the Auckland Kings on Sunday, October 17. It is familiar territory for Trimboli.

"We don't know much about the Auckland team, but I've played at North Harbour stadium with the Soccerroos in 1997 for a World Cup qualifier. It's a good stadium. I remember the pitch was bumpy then, but they've improved it a lot, so it should be a good playing surface," Trimboli said.

South will be back at Bob Jane Stadium, when it hosts the Gippsland Falcons on Sunday, October 24.

NSW TO PLAY IN WORLD YOUTH TOURNAMENT

The NSW Institute of Sport squad, which is managed by the NSW Soccer Federation, has been invited to participate in a prestigious Under 17 international tournament in Chile next January.

Hosted by the Catholic University of Santiago, the tournament will also include Under 17 national teams from Turkey, the United States and Chile, and Under 17 club teams from Bayer Leverkusen (Germany), Cerro Porteno (Paraguay), River Plate (Argentina) and Universidad Catolica (Chile).

NSW Institute Coach (and assistant coach to the Joeys), Kelly Cross said the tournament will help New South

Wales even further in its development of talented youngsters.

"New South Wales has been involved in producing players like Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton as well as a host of other national team represen-

tatives over the years," he said.

"The current Australian Under 17 squad includes 11 NSW Institute of Sport players which is a phenomenal achievement."

The NSW and Australian Under 17 captain is Mark Byrnes who, earlier this year became the youngest Australian player ever to be included in an Under 20 squad, and who recently signed a contract with NSL newcomers, Parramatta Power.

"Our participation in the Chile tournament will help us to continue to prepare our best young players for international competition," said Cross.



"The players in this squad have a career path ahead of them that not only includes the Under 17 World Cup and World Youth Cup but also the World Cup in 2006 and beyond."

Cross described the Chile tournament for the NSW Under 17s as a "fantastic opportunity" for his young charges and added that the NSW Soccer Federation didn't hesitate to lend its support for the tour.

The Australian senior national team — the Soccerroos — are scheduled to participate in a four-nations tournament in Chile in February 2000.



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For further details please contact

Frank Howieson on

☎ (02) 9633 3503

or write to Michael Briggs

C/- Hon Secretary

20 Bulli Rd, Toongabbie 2146

or PO Box 3493 Parramatta 2124

TRIAL DATES FOR YOUTH LEAGUE

Saturday October 16, 23, 30

11-12yrs 9am-11am

13-14yrs 12noon-2pm

15-16 yrs 2pm-4pm

LOCATION

RYDALMERE PARK

Cnr Victoria Rd and Park Road, Rydalmere



Eastern Suburbs Wanderers

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE 2000 SEASON TRIALS

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Under-11 and 12 enquiries to Andrew Field 0414 243 130

Trials will be held at Queens Park Soccer Fields opposite Moriah College in Baronga Ave, between York Rd & Darley Rd, Queens Park.

TRIAL DATES

SAT 16TH 23RD October

U13 9:00 — 10:30 U14 11:00 — 12:30PM

U15 1:00 — 2:30 U16 3:00 — 4:30PM

THURS 28TH October

U13/U15 5:00 — 6:00 PM

WED 27TH October

U14/U16 5:00 — 6:00 PM

SAT 30TH October

U13/U14 9:00 — 10:30 U15/U16 10:30 — 12:00

All enquiries to:

Alan Paine (02) 9545 1442 Kerry Collien 0419 253 231

Deborah da Silva (02) 9344 7856 John Nesbitt 0412 565 829

RYDE CITY SOCCER CLUB

A Division of North Ryde Soccer Club Inc.

NSW Soccer Federation

TRIALS 2000

DIV 1 YOUTH & CADET LEAGUE

Grades 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16

Tuesday 12th, 19th & 26th Oct — Grade 13 & 16

Wed 13th, 20th & 27th Oct — Grade 11 & 14

Thurs 14th, 21st & 28th Oct — Grade 12 & 15

6pm — 8pm Meadowbank Park No 8 & 9

Constitution Rd, Meadowbank

State League Division 1 — Under 18

Tuesday 5th & Thurs 7th, Tues 12th Oct at

Meadowbank 11 — 6pm

State League Division 1 — Under 21

Thursday 14th, Tues 19th & Thurs 21st Oct

at Meadowbank 11 — 6pm

First Grade

ENQUIRIES PHONE JOHN MCKIE (02) 9888 2618

Enquiries Youth / Cadets

phone Warwick Andrews (02) 9899 4004

Letters to the Editor

SOCCER COPS IT AGAIN

Dear Sir,

Even though the Olympics are still nearly a year away it is already quite apparent which sports are the long term beneficiaries.

They are in order Rugby League, AFL, Cricket and Rugby Union — all of which are not Olympic sports.

The new Olympic Stadium has been a heaven sent God for Rugby League trying to repair the enormous self-inflicted damage caused by the Super League wars.

If Stadium Australia had been planned and designed specifically for Rugby League, the builders could not have done a better job.

Canberra's Bruce Stadium has also been lavishly rebuilt, and expanded supposedly for Olympic soccer. However the Canberra Raiders RL and Brumbies RU are the real beneficiaries.

In Brisbane, despite strong protests from the soccer fraternity the Brisbane Cricket Ground was chosen to host Olympic soccer matches. The ground is now being expanded and modernised to accommodate 37,000 people.

The only beneficiaries, here are the AFL and Qld cricket. In Melbourne the new Docklands Stadium was first mooted as a venue for Olympic soccer matches which have now been foolishly

transferred to the MCG.

In reality the Docklands Stadium

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to:

soccerweekly@hotmail.com

(almost complete) has now become a new AFL venue replacing VFL Park, Waverley.

There will be provision for soccer and Rugby to be played there on a limited basis.

Only in Adelaide where Hindmarsh Stadium is being extensively redeveloped will Oz soccer retain a lasting Olympic legacy for itself.

When you think about the fact that the Olympic Soccer Tournament will in total draw the largest crowds and possibly return the largest revenue during Games as an individual sport.

It is absolutely scandalous that the

sport which contributes so much to make the Olympics a financial success is being used to benefit other rival sports that are not even Olympic sports while being given virtually nothing but the bare minimum in return.

Samaranch's famous quote "the winner is Sydney" should be recast to include Rugby League, AFL, Cricket and Rugby Union (all fine Olympic sports no doubt).

The impotence and/or incompetence of Oz soccer officialdom is once again there for all to see.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW.

NOTE TO SOC AUS — NEXT TIME ASK ME

Dear Sir,

I must say a golden opportunity was missed by not having four of the five Sydney teams in a double header opening round (season) of matches at Stadium Australia on Friday or Saturday night.

Parramatta Power against Marconi, and Northern Spirit against Sydney Olympic would have attracted 60 to 80,000 for sure if marketed and advertised properly in advance.

But unfortunately we don't have enough forward thinking people in our game to come up with these ideas to promote the game in this country at the domestic level.

Instead we keep chasing big overseas games for our Socceroos, only to be let down by the visiting national and club side sending out second rate sides,

or their Olympic sides instead.

Also, another mistake is not having a game in every major capital city on the first weekend of the new season.

Whoever worked out the draw for the season must think that only the Sydney market is important by having three home games on opening weekend.

No matter what the excuses were, Perth Glory should have been at home for their opening game, Brisbane Strikers also and Adelaide Force as well.

South Melbourne should have also been at home on their opening match instead of the Knights. I mean is this a national competition or a NSW, ACT one?

Five out of eight games were in NSW and Canberra on the first weekend of matches which is the most important round.

Whatever the excuses it's just not good enough. You wouldn't know the NSL season was starting up here in South East Qld.

I imagine it's the same story in Perth and Adelaide. The season may have started off with a bang in Sydney and Auckland, but it was with a whimper everywhere else.

When will Soccer Australia officials ever learn, to take advantage of being a real National competition, not like the other Clayton ones in other codes.

All I can say is if Soccer Australia needs any help in future to organise the best draw possible for the opening round of a season, give me a call and I will do it for free.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.



TABLE LOOKED GOOD BUT LACKED LOGIC

Dear Sir,

I'm the author of a couple of books on problem solving and logic, but even I failed to find any consistent logic in the National Soccer League table that your publication produced last week!

So let's see what you guys came up with:

First off let me say that I really like the general distribution on the back page — it is a great place to put the table, details of each game and Top Scorer lists. Innovative and great layout (I love the lemon yellow background) — well done — except for some of the content....

Carlton on top — and in bold!!! Oh dear...

I thought there must have been a reason for this, a consistent pattern, so I went searching...

Was it that they played away? No, so did Marconi and they were behind Power...

Was it that Carlton had significant Italian support (yes, but so does Marconi...see above)...

Was it that they played earlier than Canberra? No, Perth played before Brisbane but are behind them...I couldn't think of any other reason this might have

been done...then I looked at the top scorers listing and what do you know... all those who scored one goal are listed by their team — in alphabetic order — except that Marth (Carlton) is still ahead of Musitano (Canberra)...then I realised what happened:

The creator of the table and listings was unable to distinguish alphabetic order beyond the intellectually taxing length of two letters!

But wait, there is more...

Goal scorers from the same club, with the same number of goals were listed in order of scoring, not alphabetic. May I

suggest you try using alphabetic on this level as well!

Wait... did I see Musitano!!!! Michael would be delighted, but as Graham Cooke's report stated clearly on page 12

Muitano crossed to Kolpak who headed back across goal to Watkins who scored!

In fact that was the first of a pair for Watkins and he should have been on top of the scorer's list (by club alphabetically, if you don't want to list by surname). Musitano was yellow-carded in the 35th min!

Have I finished? Not quite...

The ABSW table has Brisbane F & A as 0 & 1; and Adelaide Force as 3 & 0 and other teams out of alphabetic order when everything else is even.

South Melbourne at least scored a goal in losing by one goal, and should have been above all the other losers in this round.

I am undecided on the Total column being left of Home and Away - but I think I could live with it, even though it defies standard convention on moving left to right to reach a total.

At least the Pts are on the far right. I prefer seeing Team Names, Total then Points...If you must include Home and Away — just make sure you get the contents right!

So ABSW, overall it was a pretty shabby start! I will check next week's issue (October 12), so make sure your sub-editors get it right next time!

In the interest of accuracy...

Chris Kunz
Canberra

	Total						Home						Away						PTS
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	
CARLTON	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
CANBERRA COSMOS	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
BRISBANE STRIKERS	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
PERTH GLORY	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PARRAMATTA POWER	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MARCONI STALLIONS	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
SYDNEY UNITED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN SPIRIT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTH MELBOURNE	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
ADELAIDE FORCE	1	0	0	0	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
AUCKLAND KINGZ	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ABSW's NSL points table and scorers' list which Chris Kunz said were anything but impeccable.

JOHNNY, POPPY AND CRISPY

Tuesday talk-fest on Adelaide radio

The rhythmic strains of "Hot Legs" — the official Danish FA World Cup song for France 98 — fades as Hans Reimer announces, "It's time for the "Breakfast Soccer Show," with Johnny, Poppy and Crispy."

It's also time to expect the unexpected because the diverse trio in question are former Australian international and ex-Adelaide Force coach John Perin, Channel 10 sports reporter Robbie Popplestone and retired "Advertiser" soccer scribe Allan Crisp.

During the following 90 minutes from 7.30am-9am, the group brings a combined 157 years of sporting knowledge to listeners of Adelaide community station 5RPH (1197AM).

"Advertiser" soccer journalist, Meno Toutsidis, in his role as resident phone guest on the program, lends his expertise to proceedings, while enabling the show to match Melbourne's "Four Diegos" numerically.

Twice retired senior citizen, Crispy, derives great pleasure in working with the youngsters.

"Granted, it's an unusual mixture, but we enjoy each other's company as we strive to inform, entertain and involve the listeners.

"Community radio stations are not subject to rating surveys individually, but we know the audience is out there, because when we conduct quizzes, the



Johnny, Poppy and Crispy: Alan Crisp (seated), Robbie Popplestone and John Perin.

switch board goes bananas."

All members of the panel have been active in radio and television since retiring from active sport.

"Poppy," 35, the baby of the Tuesday talk-fest, team, is the most recognisable as he fronts the Channel 10 sports desk with former Sydney icon George Donikian.

"My ambition is to be respected for a contribution to sport in South Australia and to eventually work at world sporting events," Popplestone said.

"Advertiser" columnist, Samela Harris, once compared "Poppy" in looks to Mel Gibson.

"That was wrong," challenged Perin, "Poppy is much more handsome than Mel."

Popplestone honed his sporting skills as a 10-year-old goalkeeper with the Pegasus juniors in Victoria's Latrobe Valley.

He was a Victorian Country representative soccer player in 1987, but switched to Aussie Rules football when he moved to South Australia.

He joined the famous double-blues of Sturt in 1983, before an impressive stint with West Torrens from 1989-91, earned him selected for SA.

Left-footed legend, Perin, played 12 times for the Socceroos (four A internationals), while his 43-games for SA saw him accorded life-membership of the SASF.

Perin also began as a 10-year-old, with Adelaide City, but his first senior soccer started with the Austria club where he fondly recalls former team mates, Joe Kelemen, John Puttnins, Roman Kaufmann, Eddie Gruber and Hili Sever.

It was back to Adelaide City (then Adelaide Juventus) in the first division before he participated in the first six seasons of the National Soccer League with the Zebras.

A representative game

for SA against Matt Busby's Manchester United in 1967, which housed Bobby Charlton, George Best, Denis Law, Nobby Stiles, Brian Kidd and the rest of the Red Devilish superstars, is rated as a career highlight.

That memory lingers for Perin, later to be voted NSL Coach of the Year in 1995/96 season, as does SA's victory over Legia Warsaw, when coach Edmund Kreft, guided the locals to their first victory over a visiting overseas club side.

Crisp played for the North Adelaide Primary School and the Nailsworth High School before linking up with the SA Railways Club.

A self-confessed one-game wonder, he netted a hat-trick in a 4-3 Pelaco Cup (now Federation Cup) quarter-final against Woodside United.

The fact that the trio are generations apart in age is the cause of good-natured banter, particularly when Crisp trots out some of his ancient records to embellish a soccer topic.

Popplestone's head-banging interludes provide musical contrasts during the brief breaks between interviews with coaches, players and officials and the often stimulating talk-back segments.

"When it comes to our beautiful game, you can rest assured that there is always something to talk

about, and our program provides that opportunity," Perin said.

"Here, here," echo those connected with the snap, crackle and pop breakfast fare which has food for thought as the main item on its menu.



TRIAL DATES



Bankstown City Lions NSW Super League

to be held at

"THE LIONS DEN" JENSEN OVAL in SEFTON

1st Grade • Under 21s • Under 18s

October 17th, 24th @ 4pm

October 19th, 22nd @ 6pm

For further Details Contact:

Mick Grozdanovski (02) 9755 0429 or (02) 9796 1962

Bankstown City "CUBS" Super Youth League Trials

to be held at Neville Reserve in

GEORGES HALL

CADET & JUNIOR LEAGUE

U/11s & U/12s 5.30pm Tuesday 12th October 99

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

U/13s & U/14s 5.30pm Wednesday 13th October 99

U/15s & U/16s 5.30pm Thursday 14th October 99

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

Michael Naidovski 0417 043 003

or Tony Kurtz 0409 997 003

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH



WEEKLY



MANLY WARRINGAH SOCCER ASSOCIATION Inc.

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS

SUPER LEAGUE 2000

SENIOR TRIALS

Under 18, 21 and First Grade

Players interested in playing for the North Shore's Premier State Super League Club are invited to trial on the dates below.

The progressive Manly Warringah Dolphins have the support of the 9,000 strong Manly Warringah Soccer Association and we are presently embarking on an exciting development programme at our home ground Cromer Park.

Thurs.	14/10/99	6pm	Narrabeen Sports & Rec Centre
Sat.	16/10/99	4pm	Narrabeen Sports & Rec Centre
Thurs.	21/10/99	6pm	Narrabeen Sports & Rec Centre
Sat.	23/10/99	4pm	Narrabeen Sports & Rec Centre
Thurs.	28/10/99	6pm	Venue TBA
Sat.	30/10/99	4pm	Venue TBA

Narrabeen Sports and Recreation Centre is on Wakehurst Parkway, next to Narrabeen Lakes.

Contracted players must have written clearance from their club to trial with Manly Warringah Dolphins.

Secretary

Mark Channel
0411 507 010
A.H. (02) 9944 0220

Senior Football Manager

Dennis Jones
0411 482 153
A.H. (02) 9982 8831

PLAYERS WANTED



PARRAMATTA EAGLES SOCCER CLUB

Trials will be conducted for the Under 18s and 21s

VENUE:

Everley Park, Chester Hill

TIMES:

Sundays, 9am October 17, 24
Wednesdays, 6pm Oct 13, 20, 27

Details:

TAM FINLAYSON (02) 9623 4636

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

CANBERRA 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

By Graham Cooke

Sydney Olympic have traded the individual brilliance of last season for a better balance throughout their line-up and will cause a few surprises, coach Branko Culina predicted after his team's 1-0 win over Canberra Cosmos in the National Capital last Sunday.

"People don't expect as much of us this year, and that will take some of the pressure off," he said.

Olympic snatched the three points with a goal four minutes from the end in what was an otherwise generally featureless and uninspiring game, almost totally devoid of meaningful goal mouth incident.



With 86 minutes and a scoreless draw seemingly inevitable, Olympic attacked down the right and won a corner.

There followed what Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni later described as "a chapter of simple

errors, all of which should have been fixed, and which put together, cost us the game".

The Cosmos defence did not anticipate a short corner, and when it came David Arranz dived in against Marcus Phillips, bringing him down.

A free kick just outside the penalty area at this stage of the game, should have set the alarms ringing.

Instead the home team reacted casually and failed to allow for a rare appearance in the penalty area from Scott Baillie.

Phillips chipped the ball neatly on to Baillie's head and the defender had debut-making goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou clutching at air as he rammed the ball home from close range.

Until then, it had hardly been an afternoon of excitement.

Both teams hustled busily in midfield, and almost inevitably saw their efforts come to grief in the final third.

Occasionally there was a spark: Pablo Cardozo should have done much better when he shot metres over the Cosmos bar from a free kick; Jason Polak spoilt a fine run down the right flank by over-hitting his cross to Cosmos team-mate Glen Kolpak.

And perhaps the best effort of the game until the score — a 66th minute goal kick taken by Robbie Hooker sent Cosmos team-mate Gabriel Gonzales free on the right flank.



The midfielder used his pace to open the defence and had a clear sight of goal, but the final shot was too close to Jim Kourtis.

Once again there was an all-action performance from Danny Burt in the Cosmos defence.

He had a header saved by Kourtis in the first half, but was eventually substituted.

"People asked me why," Sermanni said afterwards. "Danny gave everything and was cramping up, and I didn't want an exhausted defender in the last 15 minutes."

The coach said his team were guilty of failing to keep possession at key moments.

"There were times when we were watching the game and reacting to it, rather than taking initiatives," he said.

"Both teams have creative players, but there was very little creativity going on out there today."

SYDNEY UNITED 2
AUCKLAND KINGZ 1

By Stuart Jones

Sydney United picked up their first win of the season with a 2-1 victory over the Football Kingz on Sunday afternoon at Edensor Park.

Whilst it was not an emphatic performance by the Pumas there was obvious relief in the Pumas' dressing room afterwards.

"A lot of these boys have never won in the NSL before and this is a great boost to the side. It certainly makes things easier as a coach to have points on the board," Dave Ratcliffe said.

"We have areas to work on, we did not lay the Kingz down with a sucker blow when we were in front and it nearly cost us right at the end of the match."

"Hopefully we will have learnt by just escaping from this match that we can't just sit on a lead but we need to continue to put the pressure on our opponents."



Opposition coach Wynton Rufer was disappointed at not getting a point from the match but also saw the positives in the game.

"We have not had the luxury of a long preseason and it is only our second

game against Australian NSL clubs. I think the signs are there that we can get some good results this season. The likes of Jonathon Perry and Fred de Jong had good matches.

At the Kingz we are trying to build a European style in our play and that means we build up from the back. It is not the way I personally like to play but it is the way of the world these days. Oceania is a stepping stone to a European career for many of these lads so we have to help them anyway we can."

Sydney United had started strongly but the first shot on goal came in the 16th minute from former NSWIS player Nahuel Arrarte. Three minutes later Arrarte was played down the right by a great Ante Moric ball and he put in a cross for Mario Jermen to head home at the far post.

Auckland came into the match more and Chris Jackson soon had a penalty claim being denied, in fact he was booked for diving. In the 34th minute a terrific Dino Mennillo corner was glanced home by Fred De Jong at the near post.

It was a play that no defence could counteract and it was De Jong's first goal in Australia since 1990, and also the first goal for the new Kingz franchise. It stayed at 1-1 at half time after Tom Pondeljak and Mario Jermen had good chances to put the Pumas back in front.

From the kick off Matthew Zec played it to Pondeljak who passed it to Ante Moric.

Moric played the ball to his brother on the left and Joe Moric crossed the ball, curling it across the face of goal. All the Kingz defenders missed it and Mario Jermen struck the ball home at the far post on the first attempt.



Once more United could not put the killer blow on the Kingz despite some comedy acts from the Kingz defence, who seemed determined to play their keeper into trouble with constant back passes to him.

In the 77th minute Mario Jermen was denied by keeper Mike Utting from getting his hat trick and a minute later the visitors Harry Ngata seemed to freeze in the area after being in great space for a shot on goal.

John Crawley saw the shot come right to him but as he was falling back he realised he had to release the ball. He crashed into the post but fortunately for the home team the ball went wide for a corner.

Then in the third minute of extra time Joe Moric was adjudged to have pulled down Dino Mennillo in the area and the Kingz were awarded a penalty.

Former Gippsland player Levent Osman stepped up to the spot but his very weak shot was saved by John Crawley.

It was relief all round for the supporters and players at United as they heard the whistle sound just a few seconds later marking their first victory of the season.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

By Bert van Bedaf

Oceania and back-to-back national champion South Melbourne bounced back brightly from its 2-1 loss to Wollongong last week with a confident 2-0 home win over the Northern Spirit, who tasted their first defeat of the season.

Michael Curcija was South's hero, scoring both goals, one in each half. Northern could not improve on last season's result, which also finished 2-0.

"This was a very satisfying win for us. We worked hard for the result."

We created several good chances and I thought we played very well," South coach Ange Postecoglou said.

South's supporters' banners said it all.

"Oceania club champions. Now for Brazil. Back 2 back champs. Here we go 3 in a row."



Postecoglou also praised stand-in goal

keeper Chris Jones for a job well done. Jones stood in for Hungarian import Milan Udvaracz who had gone to Budapest to collect his family.

Spirit's coach Graham Arnold said he was disappointed in the result and his players should have taken their chances.

"We should have capitalised more on the chances we had. We didn't take them. David Seal had three or four great opportunities, usually headers are his bread and butter. South Melbourne are a great team and they deserve a lot of credit," Arnold said.

Clayton Zane claimed the first header for the Spirit from a Robbie Slater cross and Curcija also headed wide for South before hitting the target on a slippery surface, affected by overnight rain.

Curcija made immediate use of a Northern defensive mistake, putting South in the lead after 15 minutes. South captain Paul Trimboli provided the cross into the centre of the box, where Luke Casserly tried to control it.

But the leather bounced off him and into the path of the lethal Curcija, who blasted home the opening goal.

Northern tried to bounce back with a quick answer, but Seal headed wide three times, first from an Ian Crook free-kick in the 19th minute, again from a Matthew Langdon cross in the 24th and a Slater cross in the 34th.



Clayton Zane nearly drew blood in the 37th minute, but Jones quickly smothered the attempt inside the area.

Mark Rudan headed a Slater corner over the bar with three minutes left to half time, while South's Goran Lozanovski blasted over the bar after a dazzling bit of ball magic from Trimboli.

Trimboli also instigated the second goal two minutes into the second half with a one-two with Steve Panopoulos, who could have had a shot, but decided the cross instead. Curcija was on the spot again, slotting home South's second goal with an alert Vaughan Coveny close by to see it cross the line.

Creative winger Matthew Langdon got nearest to scoring for the Spirit in the 65th minute, but South's Jones expertly blocked his one-on-one shot.

Postecoglou castigated the Melbourne media afterwards for ignoring South Melbourne during the week, saying all he's been reading about "last week was some garbage about a beer garden", referring to Carlton's True Blues beer stand behind the goal at Olympic Park.

MARCONI STALLIONS 3
PERTH GLORY 3

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange and Marconi's Eddie Krncevic were all smiles after last Sunday's clash at Perth Oval where both sides fought out an entertaining 3-3 draw.

It is the fourth draw these two adversaries have produced in four encounters at Perth Oval.

Krncevic especially, was more than satisfied to come away from the West with a point since many of his first team had remained in Sydney with injuries.

"It is not easy to come to Perth where the crowd can make you feel you are playing against a team with an extra man, plus we were missing key players like Brad Maloney, Francis Awaritefe, Harry Karl and Dominic Longo.

"Although it was pleasing to show a bit of depth in the squad, the season is only two games old and we won't get to hit top form and see how we will go until at least the sixth or seventh round," Krncevic said.



For Stange, his side has also yet to gel especially in defence which is not as pressure resistant as he would prefer.

"We have a new central defence consisting of youngsters Dion Valle who has only played two NSL games and Jamie Harnwell who is in his second season. I can see however, that it doesn't work and so we will review the formation," said Stange.

"We can't afford to give away two goals from free-kicks so easily. I was pleased however, with our attitude which helped us come back from being 2-1 down."

"I'm not destroyed by the result, everyone was running and fighting but we are not the team from last season. We need a little more time. For the fans though, six goals for \$12 isn't a bad return," Stange said with a grin.

Glory started the game stronger and were a goal up after ten minutes when Bobby Despotovski ran on to a through pass from Troy Halpin and a defensive mix-up allowed teenage sensation Ivan Ergic to pounce and tuck the ball under goalkeeper David Aceski for his first NSL goal.

The visitors equalised in the 23rd minute when Vlado Zoric was first to the ball after another defensive skirmish at the other end before he centred the ball to Zeljko Babic who made no mistake from 8 metres.

The Stallions took the lead a minute into the second half when Chad Gibson found the net direct from a left-side byeline free-kick. Tony Franken made a vain attempt to prevent the ball from entering the net but the power of the shot was simply too great.



Gibson celebrated by removing his shirt to reveal a T-Shirt emblazoned with Bob Marley and was promptly rewarded with a yellow card from Referee Gerry Connolly.

Despotovski equalised after almost an hour's play when he finished off some penetrating play from Ergic that again caused havoc in the danger zone.

It was then Glory's turn to take the lead ten minutes further on when Con Boutsianis weaved his way into the goal which included a cheeky nut-meg, before drilling a shot on goal that deflected off team-mate Scott Miller.

It found the net over the head of defender Pan-keun Kim. Kim made amends in the 75th minute by taking a quick free-kick which found Zeljko Babic who wasted no time in steering the ball past Franken to make it 3-3.

Glory's Brazilian defender Edgar Junior had the final strike on goal seven minutes before the end when his vicious 25 metre lifting drive soared centimetres above Aceski's cross-bar.

After two away fixtures, Marconi take on Carlton at home next Sunday. No doubt former Blues coach Krncevic is champing at the bit for what should be a thrilling battle.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Total

Home

Away

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
BRISBANE STRIKERS	2	2	0	0	3	1	6	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	
CARLTON	2	1	1	0	4	1	4	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	0
PERTH GLORY	2	1	1	0	4	3	4	1	0	1	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	2	1	1	0	4	3	4	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	2
PARRAMATTA POWER	2	1	1	0	3	2	4	2	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	2	1	1	0	3	2	4	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	0
CANBERRA COSMOS	2	1	0	1	3	1	3	2	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTH MELBOURNE	2	1	0	1	3	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
NORTHERN SPIRIT	2	1	0	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	2
SYDNEY UNITED	2	1	0	1	2	3	3	1	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
MARCONI STALLIONS	2	0	2	0	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	4
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	2	0	2	0	4	4	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	2
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	2	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2
ADELAIDE FORCE	2	0	0	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	5
AUCKLAND KINGZ	2	0	0	2	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	2

Parramatta Power

(M Sterjovski 23 Pen, M Blagojevic 73)

Melbourne Knights

(J Vukadin 31)

Venue: Stadium Australia. **Crowd:** 7, 286. **Referee:** M.Shield

Cautions: M Reda (MK) 3, M John (MK) 20, R Banini (MK) 22, R Vargas (MK) 27, M Silic (MK) 43, J Vukadin (MK) 57.

Teams: **Parramatta Power:** Crews, Santalab, Plesa, Vrkic, Bennett (Townsend 63); Eagleton, Burns, Blagojevic, Ardone; Sterjovski, Griffiths (Angelucci 67).

Melbourne Knights: John: Banini, Vargas, Nastevski, Vukadin, Rajher (Vassallo 63); Silic (Kelic 79), Kovacevic, Susa, Reda; Trupkovic (Urlovic 16).

Carlton SC

(A Marth 73 Pen)

Gippsland Falcons

(C Bell 77)

Venue: Olympic Park. **Crowd:** 4,105. **Referee:** J Blaney

Cautions: J Hutchinson (GF) 16, D Fak (GF) 35, M Gotis (GF) 441, D McPherson (CSC) 44.

Teams: **Carlton SC:** Anastasiadis, McPherson, Deans, Douglas, Marth, Sater (Thompson 75), Atkinson, Moreira (Packer 61), Lapansky, Conroy, Tricario (Terminello 73)

Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjovic, Fak, Gotis, MacNicol (Kakos 67), Vargas, Bell (Hastie 78), Puca, Hutchinson, Savage, Marcina, Nilo.

Newcastle Breakers

(S Pryce 35, J Buonavoglia 53)

Wollongong Wolves

(E Masi 40, S Petrovski 87)

Venue: Breakers Stadium. **Crowd:** 6,023. **Referee:** S Micallef.

Cautions: V Trpceviski (NB) 5, S Chipperfield (WW) 11, D Beltrame (WW) 34, N Harlock (WW) 63, S Pryce (NB) 74, D Cervinski (WW) 76.

Teams: **Newcastle Breakers:** Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus, Sprod, Dodd, Wilson, Buonavoglia, Owens (Angievski 84), Trpceviski (Juchniewicz 59), Harper.

Wollongong Wolves: Beltrame, Souris (Reid 69), Stanton, Huxley, Horsley, Spencer, Surjan (Cervinski 69), Harlock, Chipperfield (Dimoski 71), Petrovski, Masi.

Brisbane Strikers

(Own goal 40, P Foster 69)

Adelaide Force

(D Mori 20)

Venue: Suncorp Metway Stadium **Crowd:** 4, 417. **Referee:** M Breeze

Cautions: Harris (BS) 52, A Costanzo (AF) 62, Mori (AF) 80.

Teams:

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Stefanutto, Davidson, Ditton, Pilic, Foster, Di Losa (Bell 82), Dwyer, McLaren, Harris (Baldwin 75)

Adelaide Force: Breaden, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Sabljak, Vidmar, Rodrigues (Veart 75), Day, Brain, Costanzo, Kim

South Melbourne

(M Curcija 16, 46)

Northern Spirit

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. **Crowd:** 6,917. **Referee:** W Dade.

Cautions: M Bingley (NS) 11, C Blatsis (SM) 19, I Crook (NS) 35, M Langdon (NS) 59, D Clarkson (SM) 66, M Rudan (NS) 78.

Teams: **South Melbourne:** Jones, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Blatsis, Clarkson, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Curcija (Magnacca 64, Lozanovski (Goutzioulis), Liparoti.

Northern Spirit: Henderson, Rudan, Bingley, Casserly, Cranney, Crook (Cunico 62), Bilokapic (Capanzaro 71), Langdon, Slater, Zane, Seal.

Canberra Cosmos

Sydney Olympic

(S Baillie 86)

Venue: Bruce Stadium. **Crowd:** 4, 335. **Referee:** D Dwight.

Cautions: R Hooker (CC) 17, P Tsekenis (SO) 28, P Cardozo (SO) 41, B Emerton (SO) 51, H James (CC) 54, N Carle (SO) 67, J Kourtis (SO) 90.

Teams:

Canberra Cosmos: Konstantinou, Popovich, Hooker, Burt (Milin 78), Arranz, Polak, Gonzales, Castro, James (De Jesus 70), Watkins, Kolpak

Sydney Olympic: Kourtis, Tsekenis, Baillie, Juric, Phillips, Cardozo, Emerton, Kalantzis (Cervinski 70), Mendez (Carle 61), Wilson, Zorbas.

Sydney United

(M Jerman 18, 46)

Auckland Kingz

(F De Jong 33)

Venue: Sydney Utd Sports Centre. **Crowd:** 3,136. **Referee:** B Hugo

Cautions: C Jackson (AK) 28, V Savoca (SU) 59, M Jeman (SU) 61, E Bosnar (SU) 88.

Teams: **Sydney United:** Crawley, Younis, Kupresak, Bosnar, Moric, Savoca, Arrarte, Moric, Pondeljak, Zec (Rastall 63), Jerman (Deak 87)

Auckland Kingz: Utting, Bunce, Van Steeden (Moya 69), Perry, Jackson (Stergiopoulos 68), De Jong, Mennillo, Middleby, Ngata, Osman, Silva (Vielich 69)

Perth Glory

(I Ergic 10, B Despotovski 57, C Boutsianis 67)

Marconi Stallions

(Z Babic 23, 75, C Gibson 46)

Venue: Perth Oval **Crowd:** 16, 176. **Referee:** G Connelly.

Cautions: Z Babic (MS) 14, M Smith (MS) 30, T Halpin (PG) 34, C Gibson (MS) 46.

Teams: **Perth Glory:** Franken, Trajkovski, Hamwell, Miller (Carbone 72), Halpin (G.Naven 79), Edwards, Despotovski (Thorp 94), Valle, Junior, Boutsianis, Ergic.

Marconi Stallions: Aceski, Gibson, Babic, Kim, McDonald, Babic, Smith (Care 82), Invincible, Renaud, Trajanovski (Marchesani 73), V.Zoric.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Z Babic	(Marconi Stallions)	3
C Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	2
M. Curcija	(Sth Melbourne)	2
M. Jerman	(Sydney United)	2
A Marth	(Carlton SC)	2
E Masi	(Wollongong Wolves)	2
A Moreira	(Carlton SC)	2
D Watkins	(Canberra Cosmos)	2
S Baillie	(Sydney Olympic)	1
C Bell	(Gippsland Falcons)	1
P Bennett	(Parramatta Power)	1
M Blagojevic	(Parramatta Power)	1
J Buonavoglia	(Newcastle Breakers)	1
A Castro	(Canberra Cosmos)	1
B Despotovski	(Perth Glory)	1
P Dwyer	(Brisbane Strikers)	1
I Ergic	(Perth Glory)	1
P Foster	(Brisbane Strikers)	1
C Gibson	(Marconi Stallions)	1
N Harlock	(Wollongong Wolves)	1
A Harper	(Newcastle Breakers)	1
De Jong	(Auckland Kingz)	1
A Juric	(Sydney Olympic)	1
C Kalantzis	(Sydney Olympic)	1
A Magnacca	(Sth Melbourne)	1
D Mori	(Adelaide Force)	1
S Petrovski	(Wollongong Wolves)	1
S Pryce	(Newcastle Breakers)	1
D. Seal	(Northern Spirit)	1
R.Slater	(Northern Spirit)	1
M Sterjovski	(Parramatta Power)	1
J Vukadin	(Melbourne Knights)	1
M Wilson	(Newcastle Breakers)	1

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

PARRAMATTA POWER 2
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1

By John Economos

The Parramatta Power last Friday night despite struggling to defeat the defiant Melbourne Knights 2-1, not only scored their first win of the season, but have now gone down in the records as being the first NSL club to win a League match at Sydney's giant new Olympic Stadium.

The Power can largely thank their playmaker Milan Blagojevic who scored a fabulous goal from the left to break the 1-1 deadlock in the 73rd minute with a magnificent inswinging 25 metre free kick that swerved past the outside of the Knights' defensive 'wall' before crashing just inside the far right post.

Power's first goal arrived in the 23rd minute via a somewhat luckily awarded penalty which ace striker Mile Sterjovski easily scored from the spot by sending the Knights' 'keeper Martin John the wrong way.

Power's midfielder Walter Ardone had quickly gone down in the Knights' box when he appeared not strongly challenged.

The gallant but luckless Knights have now played two matches without salvaging a single point as they languish at the bottom of the table.

Despite playing in their new 'Celtic' strip, (is this a sign of respect to Mark Viduka?), luck was not on their side.

As early as in the ninth minute Knights' striker Mijo Trupkovic broke through and looked as if he was on course to score as he steamed towards Power's box. But as giant stopper Joe Vrkic grabbed his shirt, Trupkovic lost his balance and ballooned his final shot well over the top.

Seven minutes later the Knights' striker limped off with a pulled hamstring to be replaced by Paul Urlovic.

The fighting Victorian side had the Power up against the wall in the first session with some quick shut downs from their heavily stacked midfield to paralyse the League's fledgling but more mobile side.

The Knights' midfield quintet of Mark Silic, Ante Kovacevic, Zeljko Susa, Michael Reda and Joey Rajher worked tigerishly to almost disconnect the Power's potential surge.

Following a Knights' corner in the 31st minute and hit from the right, a Power defender only managed to top his header for the ball to spill to the back post where Jason Vukadin gratefully volleyed into the target to 'balance the books'.

In the dying seconds of the first session, Knights' midfielder Michael Reda powered his way into Parramatta's box but a fully stretched Andrew Crews made a magnificent one gloved deflection that enabled Power's sweeper Richard Plesa to clear away.

Six minutes into the second session Power surged forward through Jacob Burns and Joel Griffiths who back heeled to the on running Sterjovski. But the latter's drive from the right flashed over the horizontal.

Best performers for the Power were Blagojevic, Sterjovski and Ardone, whilst the Victorians were best served through midfielders Ante Kovacevic, Zeljko Susa and stopper Rod Vargas.

An understandably very dejected, but still very honest Knights' coach Biskic, later conjured up courage as he stated: "We played quite good in the first, as well as second half, but we couldn't get a result. We created enough chances to win but couldn't even get a draw. Credit to Milan (Blagojevic) for his goal.

"As far as their penalty, well if that was a penalty we should have also had one in the second half. We didn't deserve so many cards (reference to six yellow cards his team received). I

"I've got to now lift the morale of my players. It's my job to do so. I give credit to my guys who fought to the very end."

A relieved Power coach David Mitchell, then evaluated: "We had some anxious moments in the first half as they played well. It was a superb free kick by Milan (Blagojevic). We like playing through the midfield but they blocked us there. "There are lots of things I'm not happy with, but we're at home and just had to win. Our service to the strikers was not good as we were too anxious. A lot of things now we have to get right. In the second half we tried to take the game to them.

"But honestly they closed us down very quickly in the first half and I knew that they just couldn't sustain that pressure right through," ended a by now smiling Mitchell.



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NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 2
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2

By Greg Danvers

Two two-all draws from two outings frustrating and disappointing for Newcastle Breakers coach Lee Sterrey after his team allowed Wollongong Wolves back into the match with three minutes remaining on Friday night in front of 6,023 fans at Breakers Stadium.

Sterrey lamented lost chances and three points at the post match Press Conference but the thoughts of the visiting coach Nick Theodorakopoulos were unknown to the Newcastle and visiting media.

Twice in two years Theodorakopoulos has failed to attend the Press Conference at Breakers Stadium and it is about time Soccer Australia pulled him into line and ensured he and all coaches attend the post match conferences.



The fans pay good money to watch the matches and good money to buy the publications, in particular the ABSW, to hear the thoughts of coaches on the matches.

"In general play they (the Wollongong Wolves) never made any damage to us whatsoever and you can tell they ran out of ideas in the second half and all they did was pump it (the ball) into the box," Sterrey said after the match.

"They never looked like cutting holes in us through the midfield. I thought we played really smart but at the end of the day we had the chances to win the game.

"It is disappointing that we copped a soft goal (their first one) and the second one was just as bad. He (Petrovski) could have ten of them and score one."

A Saso Petrovski bicycle kick goal in the 87th minute silenced the vocal home crowd and gave the Wollongong Wolves a point.

The scores were locked at one all at half-time after Shane Pryce scored for Newcastle in the 35th minute with Esala Masi equalising five minutes later.

The Pryce goal came from a Vasco Trpcevski corner to the far post for Andy Harper to lay off for an unmarked Pryce to bury the ball into the back of the net from five yards.

Newcastle went to sleep after the goal and Masi cleaning up a Pryce defensive error.

"At the end of the day we were stupid on the first goal, the captain is entitled to put the ball away, he knows that himself, seven minutes out from half-time its crucial we get in the sheds ahead one nil," Sterrey said of the Wolves first goal.

After the break Andy Harper and John Buonavoglia had the Wolves back-line run ragged with deep runs and spirited and skillful play.

Harper denied his 100th NSL goal in the 51st minute by an outstretched hand of Wolves 'keeper Daniel Beltrame.

Harper had tried to guide the ball past Beltrame after Buonavoglia turned David Huxley inside-out down the right flank.

It was Harper's turn two minutes later to get in behind the line and laid off a neat ball to Buonavoglia to push past the advancing Beltrame.

The Breakers led 2-1, having the crowd on the edge of their seats and full of anticipation, only to be denied by the opportunist Petrovski with three minutes remaining.

The Wolves Youth side inflicted a 1-0 win over the Breakers Youth in a match that the Breakers had every chance to win but failed at the last hurdle.

Northern Spirit youth team won out 3-2 over the Breakers Colts on Sunday at Breakers Stadium.



CARLTON 1
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1

By Bert van Bedal

Carlton left the fireworks to last. The main event proved a disappointing encounter for the Blues. The real pyrotechnics burst into light last Friday night after the Gippsland Falcons had drawn a tight match 1-1 at Olympic Park, which is Carlton's new home after two seasons at Optus Oval.

Melbourne's innovative off-field pacesetters showed little flair on the pitch against the modest but determined Falcons and they needed a hotly disputed penalty to go a goal up after 73 minutes.

But the Falcons stuck to their mission and clawed their way back for a deserved draw three minutes later.

Carlton opened brightly with its three British imports in the starting line-up, David McPherson in defence, Stuart Slater wide on the left and Mike Conroy up front, together with Alex Moreira. But the fancied Slater and Conroy were well held by Dave Marcina and Adrian Savage respectively.

Gippsland lined up without injured captain Mehmet Durakovic, but included two new signings from Victorian Premier League club Port Melbourne, defender Dean Fak and VPL top striker Peter Kakos, who took over from Brian MacNicol in the 67th minute.

Slater had the first shot, but aimed over the bar after 15 minutes.

Falcons midfielder Andy Vargas released a long-range shot that bounced just in front of Carlton 'keeper Dean Anastasiadis, who managed to palm it for a corner.

Vargas, Gippsland's best player on the night, put Juan Nilo through after 28 minutes, but the pint-sized striker hurried shot went across the face of goal. Anastasiadis was forced into another save, this time a Manny Gotis header, while Nilo's first touch let him down following another Vargas through ball.

Carlton captain Andrew Marth almost snatched the lead on the stroke of half time. But Falcons 'keeper Bojo Jevdjevic saved Marth's powerful header from point-blank range.

Conroy fumbled a shot on the turn and Jevdjevic pushed a Craig Deans shot wide, before Carlton got its penalty. Conroy cut the ball back inside the box, where it appeared to hit 19-year-old John Hutchinson on the upper-arm.

Referee Jeremy Blaney pointed to the spot as upset Falcons players pleaded with him.

Marth coolly slotted home the spot-kick and the Blues seemed on their way towards an opening victory at their new home. But the gritty Falcons stuck it out for a beautiful equaliser.

The outstanding Vargas put Clayton Bell through on right with a long ball. Anastasiadis raced off his line, but Bell lobbed him point-perfect with McPherson and Sean Douglas failing to save off the line.

Nilo could have won the match for the Falcons, but Anastasiadis spread himself and smothered the ball with his legs a minute from full time.

More than satisfied with his team's efforts, Falcons coach Jeff Hopkins doubted the penalty decision. "I don't think it was a penalty, but the boys got on with the game. We even could have won it in the last couple of minutes," he said.

Carlton coach Stuart Munro readily admitted his side had put in a poor performance. "I'm very disappointed. Considering the experience we have in the team, we didn't impose ourselves on the game at all. We started reasonably well, but as the game went on the worst we seemed to get. There was no real quality in it," Munro said.



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BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
ADELAIDE FORCE 1

By Glenn Davis

The Brisbane Strikers had their critics eating humble pie after they came from behind to snatch a thrilling 2-1 win over the star studded Adelaide Force at Suncorp Stadium last Saturday night.

After an off-season threatened by defections of several key players to other clubs, the Strikers confounded their critics in the opening match by downing Melbourne Knights away 1-nil.

To those who thought the Melbourne Knights match was a fluke, the remodelled Strikers did the job at home against the Adelaide Force to remain unbeaten after two matches.

After an even first 20 minutes, Adelaide Force took a 1-nil lead through Socceroo striker Damian Mori.

Mori chested a cross down and side footed past Strikers keeper Clint Bolton which trickled inside the upright with a desperate Andrew Davidson chasing but unable to clear in time as it crossed the goal-line.

The goal came just three minutes after Strikers' new signing from the local league, Greg Di Losa had a header brilliantly tipped over the crossbar in a diving save running backward by Force keeper Anthony Breden.

Adelaide missed an opportunity to skip to a two-nil lead on 35 minutes when a looping header by Mori off a corner from Korean midfielder Dong Ki Kim was cleared off the line by Shane Stefanutto.

The Strikers' spirited fightback began five minutes from the interval after some clever play involving midfielder Jeremy Harris and new signing Paul Foster.

Foster laid off a perfect pass to Harris who turned on the edge of the box to draw the equaliser with a deflection off midfielder Louis Brain.

Psychologically, the Strikers equaliser was a telling blow for the Force despite their vastly more experienced side.

After the break, Mori took less than a minute to apply some pressure on the home side but a powerful left foot strike fell straight into Bolton's open arms.

Brazilian teenager Igor Rodrigues, who showed touches of class throughout the game, smacked a 35 metre free kick, which sailed centimetres over the crossbar in the 58th minute.

Three minutes later Mori watched another looping header sail over the bar before the Strikers started to surge back into the game.

Midfielder Jeromy Harris produced the hard yards for the Strikers' winning goal with a typical surging run into the box in the 69th minute.

Harris blasted his shot at Breden but the Adelaide keeper could only parry into the past of Strikers' goal sneak Paul Foster for an easy tap in.

Time was still on Adelaide's side to draw the equaliser with 20 minutes to go, but the Strikers showed they were a side built on character as they repelled the visitors attacks.

Bolton pulled of a great save to deny Mori the equaliser one minute after the Strikers hit the lead with a brilliant diving save low to his left off

Mori after the Adelaide striker had turned Strikers' skipper Stu McLaren inside-out 30 metres out.

The Strikers could have gone further ahead three minutes from time when Peter Dwyer, one of the star recruits from the local premier league, had a one-on-one with Breden but shot into his legs.



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The Four Diegos

This week's special guest: Knee injury specialist

Paul Coburn



Diegos: "During the recent Socceroos v Manchester United exhibition game one of Australia's brightest prospects, Simon Colosimo was victim to a wild tackle that resulted in a serious knee injury."

"The diagnosis was tears to the anterior cruciate and medial ligaments. To repair the damage a reconstruction was required. It is anticipated that the player will be out of the game for up to 6 to 12 months."

"In the world of physiotherapy, is this as bad as a knee injury can get?"

Coburn: "I don't think it is. I believe these days knee reconstructions are so good that, provided there are no complications in terms of damage to the articular cartilage of the knee, they heal very quickly and the procedure is quite straight forward."

"Whereas if you have an injury such as an Achilles tendonitis or a patella tendonitis, these sort of injuries can drag on and be a real problem."

Diegos: "The injury was an impact injury rather than a twist or turn type injury. Is that good or bad?"

Coburn: "That's a good question, Diegos. If it is a twisting mechanism, the old adage is that you don't have the load you have when you have an impact injury. If you just twist it you don't get the bashing of the bones together."

"In a collision type injury like Simon's, you can actually compress the bones one into the other and get small fractures on the surface of the bone."

"It's very difficult to pick up and it can result in long term damage. If you were a lawyer pursuing a case against the culprit, Manchester United's Andy Cole, you would almost adopt a wait and see mentality."

"If this did go to court, and I doubt that it will, you would only know about the overall effects of such an injury in about two years time."

Diegos: "The prognosis is 6-12 months out of the game. What determines the speed of recovery and healing?"

Coburn: "There are a couple of factors. What happens with an injury like this is that the ligament heals slowly but there comes a point where the surgeon says that he is happy that the likelihood of re-injury is quite low. There have been a number of cases where players have played after four months."

Colosimo injury could have been worse



"Often though, the surgeons have not been too happy about this but, in most cases, the players have got away with it. However there are also cases where players have played after six months and re-torn the ligament."

"At the moment, surgeons like the players to have around an eight or nine month lay off. The big issue for Mr. Colosimo is whether or not he will be back for the Olympics next September."

Diegos: "Simon is desperate to be available for the Olympics in Sydney in September 2000. What complications can occur and what are the major pitfalls when you're attempting to beat the clock with your recovery?"

Coburn: "The major complication is if the articular cartilage comes away from the bone. All the other complications would stem from things that would aggravate such a condition. For example, if you re-tore the cruciate ligament then you could cause further damage to the articular cartilage."

"It's not the cruciate ligament that is the problem, a lot of people are running around without a cruciate ligament, it's the resultant arthritis that occurs if you haven't got one that is the problem."

Diegos: "Will Simon ever be the same player again?"

Coburn: "There's every chance that he would be but he may not be as good next year as he will be the following year. Many players think once they are back that they are right but this is often not the case. In many cases such players need at least another 12 months to reach their best again."

Diegos: "Thanks Paul. It's a sad one for one of our young superstars. Let's hope there are no complications and that Simon is back to his best before the Olympics."



Simon Colosimo is presented with his 1999/2000 Carlton jersey by coach Stuart Munro. Hopefully, Simon will be able to wear it this season.

Paul Coburn is a La Trobe University lecturer, Olympic Park Sports Medicine Clinic physiotherapist and former Richmond Australian Football club head physiotherapist.

The Four Diegos have their own radio show in Melbourne on 97.4 FM every Saturday from 10am to noon. They can be contacted by e-mail on fourdiegos@bigpond.com

LETHAL

Ace striker Pablo is

By Anthony Raineri

With his dazzling ball skills, electric pace and Latin looks, first-time observers of Pablo Cardozo on the soccer field often remark, "Hey, this player must be South American".

He isn't. Although born in Argentina, Cardozo has spent all but the first two-and-a-half years of his life in Australia.

Now 26, Cardozo has grown up from the back streets of inner Sydney to become one of the most lethal centre-forwards in the National Soccer League.

And a penchant for hitting the back of the net is not the only reason why the mere presence of Cardozo instills fear among opponents.

Equally adept with either foot, the slightly-built Cardozo uses sublime skill and great vision to leave defenders in their wake.

"A lot of defenders feel uncomfortable marking me because I run at them or try to turn them," Cardozo, who plays for Sydney Olympic, he said. "Defenders hate skilful players."

With so many of Australia's top footballers playing overseas, Cardozo is arguably one of the most marketable players left in the country.

He bears an uncanny resemblance to a Latin version of none other than Elvis Presley.

And although Cardozo may laugh off the comparison, there is no doubting his dark and handsome features.

As one soccer commentator recently wrote about Cardozo: "goals and Latin good looks — an irresistible combination".

Although Cardozo has worn the Elvis-lookalike tag since childhood, it became indelible a few years ago after he was coaxed into singing a few bars of 'Love Me Tender' on SBS's On the Ball program.

"I have never been able to live that down," he said. "Especially in Adelaide where I was playing at the time."

"From then on, everyone came up to me and said, 'Hey, you're the one that looks like Elvis'."

"One journalist always referred to me as Elvis — never by my real name."

"Without fail he would ring up and say, 'Hi Elvis, so what's happening'."

The key to Cardozo's exceptional ability — as a footballer not a singer — could be that he didn't take up club soccer until he was 11 years old. And then it was only because the tennis school he wanted to join rejected him for being too young.



Pablo Cardozo: "Defenders hate skilful players."

It is common knowledge that most skilful players around the world learn ball control as children playing in the streets or on fields covered with anything but lush, green grass.

Most don't join a club until at least aged 10 from where they learn tactics and improve their fitness.

Similarly, Cardozo's informal soccer education began in a concrete car park of the working-class, inner city suburb of Marrickville.

"About 20 or 30 of us children would get together and play for hours," Cardozo said. "And then we would play against other neighbourhoods."

"There was no referee, the tackles were fierce and most of the time I would come home grazed and bleeding all over."

As preparation for these marathon matches, Cardozo's

father Carlos took the scrawny kid to the local park where he taught him soccer's basic skills by kicking a ball against a wall.

"My dad has been my biggest influence by far," Cardozo said. "He taught me how to chest, head, run, dribble and pass."

"People often ask me if I am right footed or left. I'm both because of all the hours I spent kicking a ball against a wall."

"It comes back to you faster — just like in a match. I used to go there with my dad every day even on Sunday mornings while my friends were all sleeping off hangovers."

"Even today, whenever things are not going right for me I will go down to the same park and do the same drills."

"It's going back to where it all started and puts me on the right track again."

You could say it was like a young Don Bradman using a cricket stump to hit a golf ball against a corrugated water tank



Pablo Cardozo (pictured, right) with former team-mate Adem P

*"People often ask me if I am
because of all the hours I spent k*

WEAPON

Australia's Latin star

the backyard of his Bowral home in rural NSW.

Even after beginning club soccer, Cardozo refused to let anyone stifle his penchant for skilful play.

He remembers a junior coach frowning at his improvisation on the training field, telling the budding 'Maradona' to "leave the back heels for Real Madrid".

Perhaps the most amazing part of the Cardozo story is that he has never played for Australia — at any level.

"I would love to play in a World Cup or World Cup qualifier as anyone would — I'm no different," he said. "But if it doesn't happen I'm not going to cry."

Cardozo has always been in the wrong place at the wrong time for representative soccer.

His purple patch of form last season coincided with the Socceroos' quietest international calendar in memory.

Even in 1997/98 as luck would have it, Australia's only

games were played when Cardozo was overseas and unavailable for selection.

"Many people come up to me and say 'you're playing so well, it's a shame Australia hasn't got any matches coming up'," he said.

The Socceroos' next matches are in November against four times world champions Brazil.

Such is the prestige of the event, the likes of Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell, Ned Zelic and John Aloisi have already expressed their availability for selection, much to the chagrin of the NSL-based players.

Cardozo is not giving up hope and plans to state his case for selection by scoring goals, goals and more goals.

Sure, the overseas-based players might attract more headlines than Cardozo but for them it is just another friendly.

A hungry Cardozo will have everything to play for, not least a desire to prove to a succession of representative coaches from over the years that he too can hold his own at elite level.

The Australian soccer development program is structured so that a player begins his representative career at the Australian Institute of Sport progressing to the national under-17 team, Young Socceroos, Olyroos and ultimately the Socceroos.

Cardozo would strike a mighty blow for the underdog should he win belated Socceroo selection.

A match-winning performance against one of the greatest teams in the world, which could include players such as Romario, Denilson and Edmundo will be the Australian soccer fairytale of the year.

Cardozo's only overseas soccer experience occurred last year when he spent four months playing for Rapid Vienna in the relative obscurity of the Austrian first division.

In hindsight, the league's physical style of soccer didn't suit Cardozo and he was also disillusioned with the coach's insistence on playing him in the unfamiliar position of defensive midfielder.

"I wasn't too happy at all in that position," Cardozo said.

"I started in about five matches and came up off the bench in all the other games.

"But as far as I am concerned, the standard of soccer in Austria is nothing to really rave about.

"In fact I believe the standard of our NSL is just as good if not better, except that at the moment it is only catering for part-time players."

Cardozo more than most deserves international success, even for the sake of Australia's reputation. He wants to show



Pablo Cardozo spent three years with Adelaide Sharks under Raul Blanco.

the world that Australian footballers can be skilful and not just big and strong.

A Socceroo call-up will come sooner or later, but what he would like above anything else is to test his ability either in the Spanish First Division or the English Premier League.

If he does make it to one of these two esteemed leagues, the fans also initially will assume the player's pedigree to be South American."

"No mate, I'm made in Australia," Cardozo will proudly boast, "the back streets of Marrickville to be exact."

An Australian soccer fairytale, indeed.



Cardozo and a couple of Sydney Olympic promotional girls.

*right footed or left. I'm both
kicking a ball against a well ..."*

WEST ADELAIDE SHARKS

Historical Picture Special



West Adelaide v Adelaide City 1977: Championship decider (1-1) at Hindmarsh Stadium, Capacity crowd: 16,000.
From left: Dave Pillans (West Adelaide), Bugsy Nyskohus (Adelaide City), John Besir (Adelaide City), Peter Marshall (Adelaide City), Graham Honeyman (West Adelaide - part hidden), Peter Boyle (West Adelaide).

West Adelaide v Adelaide City 1977: Left to Right: Barry Reynolds (West Adelaide), John Nyskohus (Adelaide City), Graham Honeyman (West Adelaide).



West Adelaide v Adelaide City 1977: Vic Bozanic (West Adelaide), Dave Pillans (West Adelaide), Peter Marshall (Adelaide City), Bugsy Nyskohus (Adelaide City).



PICTURES COURTESY OF THE Adelaide ADVERTISER NEWSPAPER

FAMOUS PHOTOS

Have you had your photo taken with someone famous in soccer? Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW. Send photos to the Editor, Australian and British Soccer Weekly. P.O. Box 155, Marrickville NSW, 2204. Or E-mail the photo to soccerweekly@hotmail.com



Gaetano Melita, of Concord in Sydney's inner west, is pictured with Croatia and AC Milan star Zvonimir Boban. The picture was taken during AC Milan's tour of Australia in 1993. Gaetano is an ardent AC Milan fan. Twice he flew to Tokyo just to see them play in the Toyota Cup which pits the European champions against the South American champions. Another time, Gaetano spent three months following AC Milan all over Italy.



Mrs Lorna Gale is pictured with Northern Spirit player coach Graham Arnold. Lorna is the registrar, life member and 'jack of all trades' of Pittwater RSL Soccer Club on Sydney's northern beaches. The picture was taken at a reception after the Northern Spirit v Manly Warringah Amateur Select XI match at Narrabeen Sports Academy on September 3.



Milan Mihajlovic (right), of Noble Park in Victoria, sent in the above photo and the following letter: "...Last year I flew to Hindmarsh Stadium in Adelaide to meet my childhood hero — the captain of Yugoslavia and the best player to ever come out of Yugoslavia — Dragan Stojkovic. He was in Adelaide with his Japanese J League team Nagoya Grampus Eight which played Adelaide City as part of their pre-season. Stojkovic played with Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia), Olympique Marseille (France), and Verona (Italy) before joining Nagoya." Milan and his brother Zlatko this year played for Victorian Premier League club Springvale White Eagles.

JUNIOR SOCCER

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PO BOX 155, MARRICKVILLE. NSW. 2204. OR E-MAIL PHOTOS



Back row, left to right: Matthew Ayoub, Mitchell Fihlebon, Robert Di Meglio, Con Spanos, Salvatore Panto, Troy MacKellar, Daniel Squires, Richard Felice, Savas Karavellas (coach)
Front row, left to right: Ashley Phillips, Johnny Bontzouklis, Adam Hallinan, Chris Petkovski, Andrea Sarris, Johnny Michos, Andrew Karavellas.
Missing from photo: Scott Bracken



North-west Sydney-based CSI Schofields Under-9 ones did very well in their first year of competition and playing on a full field. They came third overall and managed to make the second semi-final before being defeated.
Back row, left to right: David Viola (coach), Peter Wright (manager), Giuseppe Siracusa (coach).
Middle row, left to right: Andy Ayoub, Tyce Winkler, Michael De Iulio, Aaron Apap, Andrew Siracusa, Michael Said.
Front row, left to right: Kane Wright, Samuel Belcastro, Jarred Saville, Steven Sablic, Christopher Viola, Dylan Speelman.

Pictured is the Stanmore Hawks Under 12 NSW Cadet League team. Lesley MacKellar, the mother of one of the boys, sent in the photo with the following letter:

"...Our team had such a wonderful, but traumatic season. Even before it started everything that could happen to a team, did.

"About six weeks into the season, Scott Bracken

suffered a badly broken leg, not being able to return to the team as a player, due to a bad recovery. But he supported us through the rest of the season.

"One of our main players had an Achilles injury in a most crucial stage of the competition, and this affected the morale of the team. But, only for one game.

"The boys quickly recovered and went on to

become Minor Premiers, and then, showing the strength and support for each other that their coach Savas Karavellas had instilled in them, they went on to obtain the glory of Premiers.

"The boys faced these adversities in a most mature way, refusing to let them have an affect.

"The team approached the game with a positive attitude at all times.

"Their coach Savas had a rapport with the boys, which none of us parents had come across before in a coach.

"The night-time talks with his team members, pre-match confidence booster sessions, and the personal care and attention he paid his team are to be highly commended."

NEW FORCE ON THE NSW CENTRAL COAST

By Joseph Piazza

The NSW Central Coast has a new force in soccer after an agreement between Mingara Recreation Club and Macquarie Sports Soccer Club to pool their resources.

The club will be now known as Central Coast Lakers, and its motto is "Driving Soccer into The Millennium".

The well patronised Mingara Recreation Club is building a new \$4.9 million stadium for the soccer team to play in complete with a 400m running track.

To be finished by early next year, the stadium will be the best soccer facility on the NSW Central Coast.

The Lakers will next year field

eight teams in the NSW Cadet League, NSW Youth league Division 2 and NSW Federation Division 3.

Macquarie Sports Club was formed in late 1990 and entered teams in the Sydney youth and junior leagues the following year.

It was formed to give local youngsters exposure to higher-standard Sydney-based competitions.

The club has just completed its eighth season.

The early years saw players from the Hunter Valley, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the Central Coast take to the field for Macquarie Sports because at the time there was no other avenue in the region to play in such a high level of competition.

Many Macquarie Sports players have gone on to play First Division in either Newcastle or the Central

Coast with several players having also filled positions with NSW State League teams such as the Central Coast Coasties and Adamstown Rosebuds.

One Macquarie Sports old boy — Brad Wiczorek plays for National Soccer League club Newcastle Breakers while another old boy Matt Austin used to.

Since 1991 Macquarie Sports have fielded over 80 players each season.

They have won five Premierships, nine Branch championships and have been runners-up 17 times.

Some 162 Macquarie Sports players have competed in the NSW State Championships and 29 of them have gone on to represent NSW at the National championships.



Mingara Recreation Club's John Millard, junior players Ryan Moore and Michael Watson and Central Coast Lakers chairman Phil Collins.

JUNIOR SOCCER

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IN JPEG FORMAT TO soccerweekly@hotmail.com *All photos will be returned

1999 NATIONAL TALENT IDENTIFICATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

UNDER 16

FINAL VIC 3 NSW 1

Victoria outplayed NSW in the Under 16's National Talent Identification Championship Final at the AIS. Victoria was leading 1-0 at half time in an exciting end to end tussle by the two giants of Australian Youth Football. Although NSW replied in the second half Victoria put two more away in the second half to finish strongly to win 3-1 and be crowned 1999 Champions. Leighal Dellis scored for NSW, while the Vic's scorers were Mark

Tsiorlas, Ali Kurtdereli and Ricky Chillico.

3rd — 4th Play Off	
SA 1	NNSW 3
FINAL STANDINGS	
1st	VIC
2nd	NSW
3rd	NNSW
4th	SA
Equal 5th	QLD
Equal 5th	CNSW
7th	WA
8th	ACT
9th	TAS
10th	NT

IDENTIFIED PLAYERS

STRIKERS: Tim Sheridan NNSW, Matthew Parker CNSW, Mark Tsiorlas VIC, Steven Pirone SA, John Majurovski NNSW, Troy Stone CNSW, Mimi Saric SA

MIDFIELD: Franco Parisi NSW, Niall Fay SA, Daniel Rainey VIC, Steven Pace VIC, Peter Gavaghan NSW, Mitchell Johnson NNSW, Ricky Chillico VIC, Joel Grenell VIC, Steve Pantelidis VIC, Narbeth Avanes NSW

WIDE MIDFIELD: Ian Bonato QLD, David Carney NSW, Tallan Martin NSW, Rademir Sekulovski VIC, Brendan Lewandowski QLD

CENTRE BACKS: Matt Rosier NSW, Evan Metanomski SA, Jordan D'Arsie SA, Daniel Rocco VIC

SWEEPERS: Craig Metcalf NNSW, Leo Trebbia VIC, Wayne Heath QLD

GOALKEEPERS: Peter Wood NNSW, Adam Hrehoresin VIC, Andrew Carmen SA

UNDER 15

FINAL NSW 2 WA 0

NSW are the 1999 National Talent Identification Champions after defeating WA 2-0 in a high quality final at the AIS Soccer Fields.

WA started well — they played some attractive football and creating several early attacking chances, only to be denied by some excellent scrambling defence.

NSW got back into the match and took the lead on the half hour when Brett Holman beat the offside trap to finish off a good through ball from captain Michael Brown to establish a 1-0 lead at half time. NSW landed the killer blow immediately after the break when Holman again capitalised on some poor WA defence to find the back of the net.

Although no further goals were forthcoming, NSW dominated the midfield while Holman and Matthew Engle created plenty of headaches for the WA defence.

3rd - 4th Play Off	
SA 3	ACT 3
FINAL STANDINGS	
1st	NSW
2nd	WA
Equal 3rd	SA
Equal 3rd	ACT
5th	VIC
6th	CNSW
7th	QLD
8th	TAS
9th	NNSW
10th	NT

Under 15 Selection Camp

ACT: Adrien La Butte, Carl Valeri, Steven Arnott

VIC: Fred Au, Massimo Murocca, David Puccio, Steven Esposito, Theo Patidis, Michael Edwards

NSW: Jacob Rex, Predrag Bojic, Brett Holman, Michael Brown, Stephen Hallinan, Phillip Weston, Gokhan Ada

QLD: Andrew Byrne, Daniel Varma, Ben Stevens, Sean Walsh

WA: Darren Broxton, Louis Parkinson, Anthony Danze

SA: Adam Van Dommelle, Ben Aldridge, Mario Karlovic, Russell Waller, Fred Agius, Thomas Radford, Terry Smith

TAS: Tom Gordon

TRUE BLUES INC.



MADE HISTORY 'FIRST'

By Terry Maher

Although it was great to see the Canberra Cosmos Supporters' Club coming out with a code of conduct (Soccer Weekly 28.9.99), it is the Carlton Soccer Club's supporters group, The True Blues Inc., who deserve the real credit for being first to introduce rules governing the conduct of its fans on the terraces.

It was during the dramatic 4-4

draw with fierce rivals South Melbourne on November 22 last year that the Carlton True Blues, tiring of the continuous chants of "Hellas! Hellas!" coming with regular monotony from the supposedly all-Greek grandstand at Bob Jane Stadium, spontaneously responded with a "We are multicultural! We are multicultural!" ditty of their own.

The chant for tolerance and diversity has been de rigueur at all Carlton home games since then and especially at away games against

the two decidedly-monocultural clubs — Croatia and Hellas — that Carlton shares the city of Melbourne with.

The principles of tolerance and diversity and the code of conduct were enshrined in the "True Blue Rules" and unanimously adopted at a supporters forum earlier this year. They are as follows:

"Being a member of the True Blues means that you agree not to act in a manner that brings either the True Blues or the Carlton Soccer Club into disre-

pute. This is defined as including the following:

You agree not to act in an aggressive or threatening manner toward any other members of the soccer family, including neutral or opposing fans.

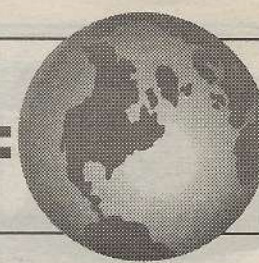
You agree not to be drunk and/or abusive at any official True Blues-organised functions or while attending any Carlton matches.

You agree not to indulge in any foul or abuse language aimed at other supporters, players, or offi-

cials while attending either a Carlton soccer match or a club or True Blues' function.

You agree not to engage in an behaviour or language that is, or can be deemed to be, regarded as racist or discriminating toward any other members of the soccer family, including neutral or opposing fans.

Failure to comply with these rules will lead to immediate expulsion from the True Blues.



GIVE THE REFEREE A GO!



Police escorts for referees are too-often occurrences.

***By Sharon Jackson**

With the shortage of officials this season, it's occurred to me, why would anyone want to be a referee in the first place. I mean, the ref is the regular killjoy of all games isn't he?

Like the treasurer at budget time. So why do they do it? It certainly isn't money although things are better now than just before the war. A referee was paid one shilling and sixpence and a linesman just ninepence.

It was sixpence for the tram to get to the game and he was expected to run the line for three years before reaching the heady heights of a referee's wages.

Strangely, there are as many reasons as there are refs. Some want to be involved in the game but just can't make the team. Young refs are often players as well, revelling in the play (and earning some pocket money). Older refs, past their play-by date, cannot just give it away. "It'd be like losing my right arm" one said. "But it is hard from time to time"

And it must be very hard to front up again and again after players, supporters, coaches and even parents have done nothing but belittle you for an afternoon. From the sidelines ref-bagging is a time honoured tradition.

Should there be problems, very often it will come from the sidelines where we're all refs and we know far better than the man in charge does, naturally.

Still, there are refs and there are refs. There are those, woman-like in their memories, who store up every minor indiscretion to use in

later matches, patiently waiting for their chance to spring, and that's it, you're off for swearing to yourself.

Then there are the martyrs to the cause who look at you with big sorrowful spaniel like eyes 'how many times'. A bit like your mum when your dirty kitbag is still on the laundry floor after 2 days.

On the opposite side of the coin there is the closet sadist. Unable to be the boss at work or at home, he makes up for it on the field, strutting about like a rooster over his hen coop, nipping in at every opportunity to use the whistle.

You can always spot the shiny new ref, fresh out of ref school and a stickler for every tiny little rule. I'm sure some of them have a miniature version in their top pocket, ready to bring out at the slightest challenge. 'Page 45, Section 3, Verse 12 says that'. But, fair go, at least he's trying to do the right thing and it is very true that supporters, players and even coaches do not keep up with changes in the rules.

Some don't even know them to start with! 'I only really started to learn the rules when I started reffing' said a new ref and how is he expected to learn if we don't give him the chance?

The best refs though are those who play for the love of the game. Like everything else in this game, passion for it overcomes any controversy. He is a benevolent dictator who asserts his authority easily without getting a complex about it.

He knows very well that it is the players'

game but that he is in control and his actions will contribute greatly to or detract from a good afternoon's entertainment.

He reads the game well, more importantly he reads people well and manages them rather than reacting to them. He is the impartial judge and jury for every decision and remains so, even under extreme provocation. And that must be hard.

In short, he enjoys the game as much as everyone else does. He accepts that he makes mistakes but he moves on and thinks about it later. It is a very odd thing but we do expect our refs to be perfect in every way, all seeing and all knowing without any of the normal human failings. Why hasn't he got eyes in the back of his head, for god's sake?

To make up for this, quite a few develop excellent peripheral vision.

Another odd thing is that all refs are practiced musicians and their whistles portray a huge range of emotions? A short tired beep is "Come off it, opposition's ball."

A fierce burst is "Forget it, mate, none of that on this field" and a series of blasts is 'come here, both of you and listen to me, RIGHT BLOODY NOW'.

The measure of a ref can be gauged by the 'play on' rule. For example, a player holding the other's shirt down could be stopped or more often, will be let go to see if the other can gain the advantage. If he doesn't, play is stopped.

Not absolutely to the rules but it makes for a flowing game. Of course, the 'sideline refs' will say "should have seen that 10 yards ago".

But a seasoned ref will always play to a possible outcome. In a recent game, the ref followed a striker from his own 18-yard box all the way to the opposition's goalmouth where he missed a completely open goal. With only enough breath left to just blow a peep the ref says 'how did you miss that?' gasp 'next time I'll book you!'

There is the famous example of two players, one of which is trying to hold the other back by holding his hand all the way along the sideline. Eventually he shakes him off with an arm across the chest and wins the ball. 'Hey ref' says the handholder. 'play on' says the ref. 'You should ask permission before you hold hands, sweetie'.

Such is human nature that if a team is losing at half-time then 'open your eyes' is the cry. The same team, having won at full-time, is 'Well done ref. Best reffing I ever saw' No wonder they're going grey.

But looking a bit more seriously, whatever your level of involvement, a reliable source of quality refereeing is a must. Imagine the debacle if two teams reffed themselves. It'd be like parliament — on a good day.

So, come on everyone, give the ref a go. He is as much part of the game as you are and good, bad or indifferent, he's out there doing it to the best of his ability. Could you do it?

**Sharon Jackson is a freelance journalist based in Brisbane*

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IT'S NOT EASY BEING RONALDO

A familiar-looking bald twentysomething grinned toothily at Milan's San Siro stadium last month, watching intently as Inter pounded Parma, 5-1.

His new blonde girlfriend was by his side (his latest flame, Milene, bears an uncanny resemblance to his former, Suzana Werner, aka Ronaldinha) and he seemed cheerful and relaxed.

Nobody knows what thoughts were crossing his mind, but Ronaldo, the most hyped soccer player since Diego Armando Maradona, would have done well to pause and reflect on his current state.

For Ronaldo's situation (plight is too strong a word for a guy whose total annual earnings approach \$30 million) is as complicated as it is unique.

On the one hand, he is blessed with an otherworldly combination of skills, the likes of which haven't been seen in years.

On the other, they are sometimes difficult to incorporate in a squad without upsetting delicate tactical balances.

He turned 23 years old on September 22 and has already dominated at the highest level in Holland, Spain and Italy — not to mention dazzled millions with the Brazilian national team.

But at the same time, in the past 18 months he's been crippled by nagging injuries, from the mundane to the mysterious (to this day nobody has offered a convincing explanation for his bizarre disappearance-reappearance minutes before the France 98 final).

He is one of the most recognisable athletes in the world, and with Michael Jordan now retired, only Tiger Woods is even in his league in terms of endorsement/sponsorship punch.

But the same sponsors who made him rich are also responsible for shackling him to Inter Milan, a club which perversely can't afford to sell him and which he probably could not afford to leave.

No longer an automatic choice as "The World Number One," Ronaldo is nearing a crossroads in his career. He needs to address the three issues mentioned above — performance, physical health and personal freedom — because if he looks in his rear view mirror he can see the Rivaldos and Beckhams closing in on him.

When he burst onto the scene, his blend of speed, power, goal-scoring instinct and close control caught everyone off guard. Simply put, nobody was able to



Ronaldo: One of the most recognisable athletes in the world.

consistently do what he did: receive the ball at mid-field, blow past one defender, steamroll another, hypnotize a third with a little shimmy and blast the ball into the back of the net.

"You either beat him to the ball or you're dead," one Serie A defender told me. "There's no point in running after him, because you won't catch him. Tackling him is useless too because he can out-

dummy anyone. You can try kicking him, but that rarely works because he's built like Robocop."

The problem is that he can sometimes be a one-trick pony. Give him space on the break and he'll kill you.

But stick him into a crowded penalty box and he becomes human again. He doesn't pressure the defence, he doesn't play one-twos in traffic and he

rarely comes back to support the midfield.

When he's not scoring, he adds little to the team beyond his intimidating presence.

And that can be a problem, because when he has an off-day, it's like playing with 10 men.

Ronaldo has the skills and the intelligence to change his game, to become a more complete player. But if he does that, he risks losing some of his lustre, some of that single-mindedness which made him the most devastating force in the game.

As for his health, there is no question that he takes a lot of punishment.

The fact that Brazil isn't likely to call him in for World Cup qualifying and that Inter is not involved in European competition will undoubtedly help.

But he needs to be given time, to be kept free from the pressures of meaningless friendlies and sponsor commitments. In fact, the best thing that can happen is for Inter to do well without him, so that when he does play, he'll be the icing on the cake, not the cake itself.

His relationship with the sponsors is more difficult to resolve.

When he moved to Inter, he received numerous lengthy endorsement deals, most of which are linked to his remaining at the club.

Inter also receives a hefty annual cash injection from various sponsors, but only as long as it keeps Ronaldo.

It was meant to ensure that he could remain at the club for a long time without having to worry about moving elsewhere or passing up other commercial opportunities.

But it has become something of a gilded cage.

He simply cannot leave Inter. Even if the Milan club wanted to sell him, it couldn't because it would lose bagfuls of cash.

He may be worth about \$70 million on the open market, but it still wouldn't make sense for Inter to let him go, because it would lose half that sum in endorsements.

Basically, he signed away his freedom, which is especially galling as reports keep circulating saying he wants to return to Brazil (Flamengo) or Spain (Barcelona).

It's not easy being Ronaldo. And it will not get any easier in the 10 or so years he has left in his career.

I'LL STAY TILL WE WIN

Ronaldo never considered quitting Inter Milan and will stay there until they have won the Italian championship, newspapers reported last week.

The Brazilian striker said he was moved by the reception he was given when he came off the substitutes' bench for the 2-1 win against Piacenza on October 2 and wanted to win a title for the fans.

"You don't find supporters like these anywhere else," said Ronaldo. "I want to tell them that I never intended to leave Inter. I'm staying here and I won't leave Milan until I've won a scudetto," *Gazzetta dello Sport* quoted him as saying.



Many thought he might leave Inter in the close season after they finished eighth in the league and failed to qualify for Europe.

Newcastle United coach Bobby Robson asked Inter to loan him Ronaldo for a month last week but

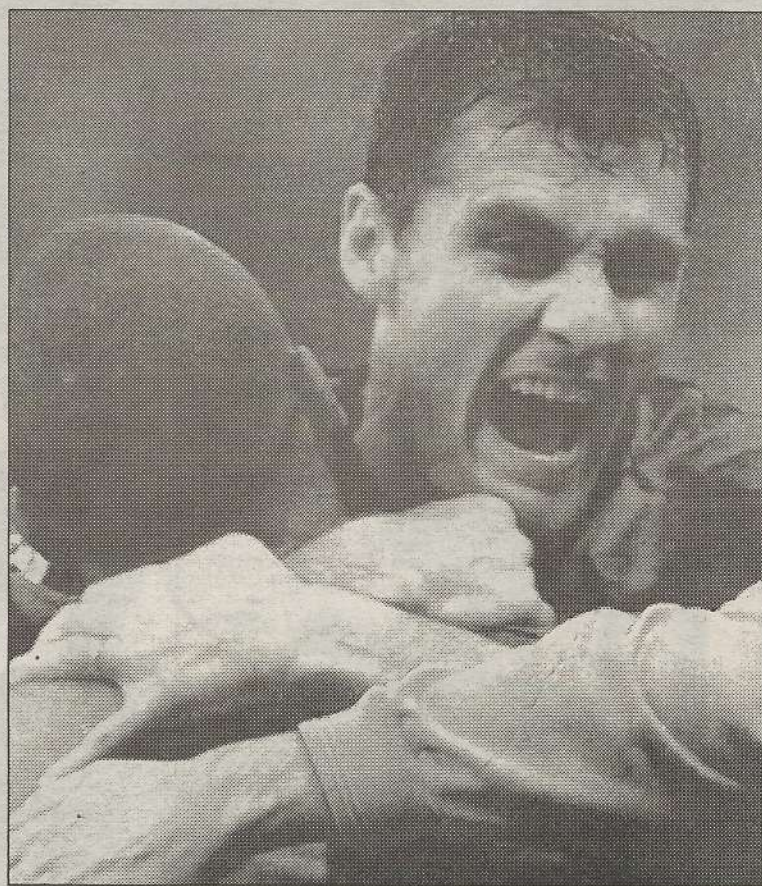
was turned down.

Inter have not won a championship since 1989 and are banking on Ronaldo and Christian Vieri to lift the crown.

Ronaldo's first goal of the season on last Saturday week proved to be the winner and took Inter two points clear at the top.

The Brazilian acknowledged he was not back to his best but said he would be by the time Inter face champions AC Milan on October 23.

"Ronaldo will be ready to be the real Ronaldo for the derby," he said. "That's a great match to make a promise for, isn't it?"



Ronaldo and Christian Vieri: Hoping to bring the Serie A title back to Inter Milan.



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



When UEFA unveiled the new look Champions League, it was met with gasps of horror from the purists.

Some whined about there being too many games.

Some complained about third and fourth placed teams being allowed in the competition.

And some despaired that it was now a made-for-television extravaganza, leaving the big clubs awash with money and the minnows drowning in debt.

Preliminary viewing figures across Europe are actually higher than last season, so one would guess most fans agree.

But it's the half-way point and it's time draw some early conclusions.

GROUP A

Powered by the Salas-Mancini connection, **Lazio** seems to have locked things up. The free-spending Romans have a wealth of offensive options that are as deep as any club in Europe.

Dinamo Kiev has been both disappointing (losing at home to **Maribor**) and unlucky (losing at Lazio), but don't write it off just yet.

It may be last with a single point, but if it wins all its remaining games (away to **Maribor**, home to **Bayer Leverkusen** and **Lazio**) it has an excellent chance to qualify.

Look for it to nail three on the trot and edge out **Bayer** for the spot behind **Lazio**.

GROUP B

This was supposed to be the glitzy group: **Barcelona's** Dutch-Catalan goal machine versus **Fiorentina's** dream team front four (**Batistuta-Chiesa-Mijatovic-Rui Costa**) versus **Arsenal's**

glorious backline.

Instead, **Fiorentina** has been the flop of the tournament and the other two bigshots have also faltered.

Strangely enough, it was little **AIK Solna** that drew most of the applause.

It gave everybody fits and was desperately unlucky to be felled by late and (moderately) lucky goals against **Barcelona** and **Arsenal**.

Fiorentina has been just awful and it will take a superhuman effort to reverse the trend.

On paper it can compete with **Arsenal** for the second spot (assuming **Barcelona** will grab first, which should happen, barring an implosion like last year), but in practice the **Gunners** are less prone to slip-ups.

GROUP C

Borussia Dortmund has been sleepwalking through this Champions League, but odds are, it'll get away with it.

Plucky **Rosenborg** is finally getting the best out of enigmatic striker **Jon Carew**, and it should finish a comfortable second. **Feyenoord** has been awful and, much like **Fiorentina**, it will take a miracle for it to make up for lost ground.

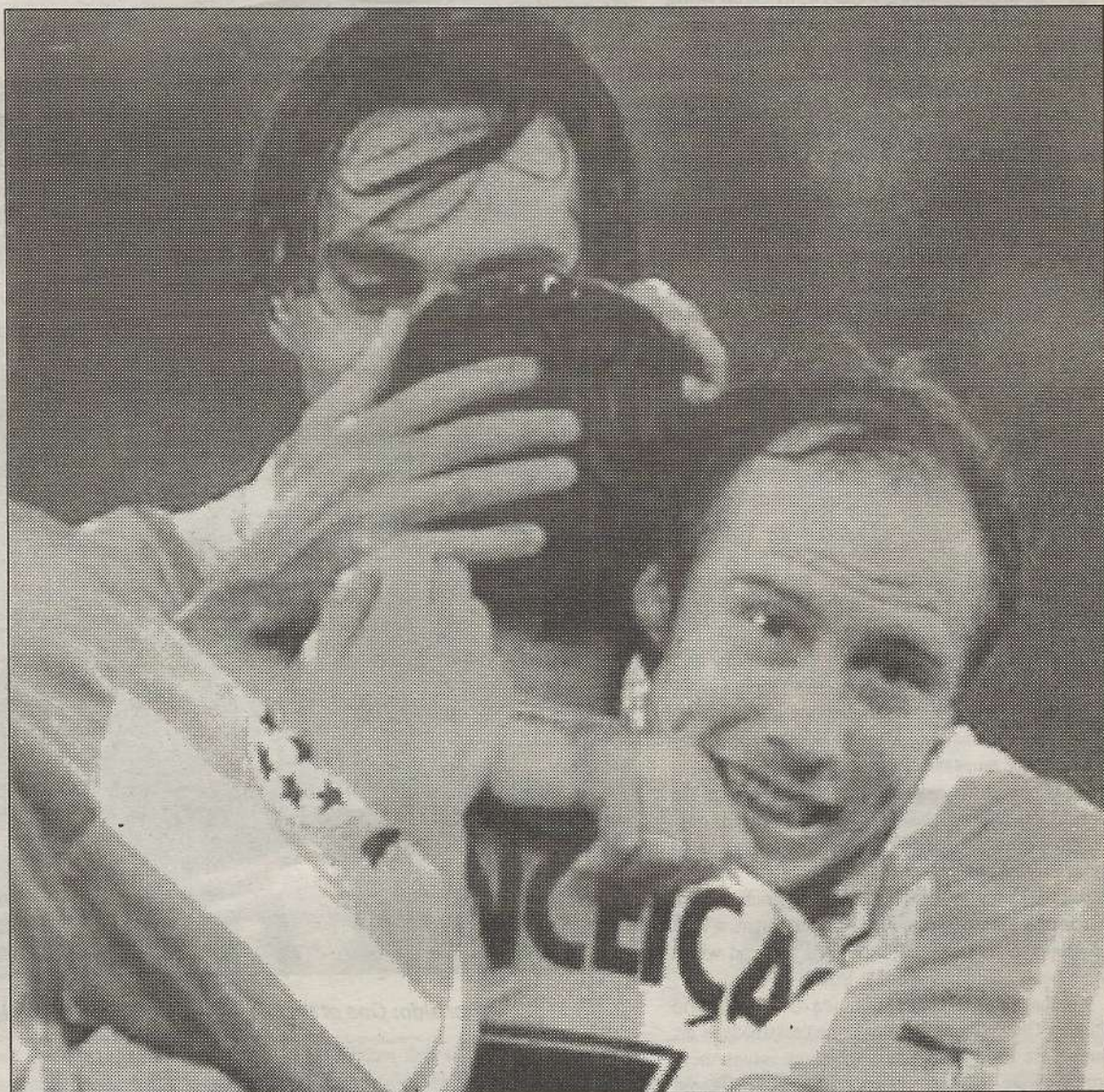
GROUP D

Except for the game against **Sturm Graz** (a club who has no business being in the Champions League), **Manchester United** has played like anything but defending champions.

It sits in first place, but needs to watch its back.

It has to visit **Marseille** and **Croatia Zagreb**, and could well lose in both places.

If it does, it could find that its fate



Lazio players celebrate scoring against Slovenia's Maribor.

rests on goal difference.

Marseille has blown hot and cold, but on its day is a match for anyone and

Croatia Zagreb is a well-organised, prickly team.

Both will mount challenges, and this could be the tightest group yet.

If **Rangers** can win its remaining home games, it should clinch a spot in the next round, leaving **Valencia** and **Bayern Munich** to fight it out for the other spot.

GROUP E

Real Madrid has so far ridden the fact that it is a collection of talented individuals. Sheer magic from the likes of **Raul** and **McManaman** has propelled it to first place and should be enough to see them through.

Later on, it'll need to develop something approaching a game plan, but for now, winging it is enough.

Olympiakos' Slovenian-Brazilian connection of **Zahovic-Giovanni** has worked wonders so far.

Both are players on the rebound who deserve more credit. **Porto** stands between them and a spot in the next round and the **Greeks** may well cause an upset.

The two face each other in the final game with all the marbles at stake.

GROUP F

Thanks to **Bayern Munich's** painfully slow self-destruction, this one's wide open.

An unconvincing win over **PSV**, followed by lacklustre draws against **Rangers** (away) and **Valencia** (at home) has left the German champions in a nervous tie for first.

They should have done better and they could soon pay the price.

GROUP G

Bordeaux should cruise through, even if its vaunted strike force of **Wiltord** and **Laslandes** doesn't impress.

Willem II is here only to make up the numbers and **Spartak Moscow** faces a difficult away trip to **Prague**.

Expect **Sparta Prague** to grab the other spot.

GROUP H

AC Milan has been the disappointment of the tournament so far, yet it sits in first place.

In many ways, it mirrors **Bayern Munich** in **Group F**: a soccer juggernaut which has inched its way forward by inertia, more than anything else.

For **Chelsea** and **Hertha Berlin** to capitalize on this however, they will have to be nothing short of perfect.

Gianluca's **Vialli's** men face a nightmarish away trip to take on **Galatasaray**, followed by a visit to **San Siro** and a home tie against **Hertha**, with the qualification at stake.

It could well be too much.

As for **Milan**, they'll find a way through, along with the Germans.



Arsenal's Denis Bergkamp is slide tackled by Barcelona's Winston Bogarde.

FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until October 13)

1	Brazil	68=	Zimbabwe	137	St Vincent/Gren
2	Czech Republic	70	Cyprus	138	Libya
3	France	71	Northern Ireland	139=	Ethiopia
4	Spain	72	Mali	139=	Hong Kong
5	Germany	73	Guatemala	141	Solomon Islands
6	Croatia	74	Estonia	142	Panama
7	Argentina	75=	Honduras	143	San Marino
8	Italy	75=	Nigeria	144	Sri Lanka
9	Norway	77	Burkina Faso	145=	Dominica
10=	Mexico	78	Wales	145=	Saint Lucia
10=	Romania	79	Algeria	147	Gambia
12	England	80	Uzbekistan	148=	Andorra
13	Portugal	81=	Cuba	148=	Bangladesh
14	Netherlands	81=	Gabon	150	Antigua
15	Sweden	83	Senegal	151	Lesotho
16	Denmark	84	Namibia	152	Yemen
17	Yugoslavia	85	Qatar	153=	Dominican Republic
18	Paraguay	86	Guinea	153=	Laos
19	Russia	87	Togo	155	Mauritania
20	United States	88=	Albania	156	Niger
21=	Morocco	88=	Bosnia-Herzegovina	157	Rwanda
21=	Slovakia	88=	Oman	158	Cayman Islands
23	Colombia	91	Armenia	159	Kyrgyzstan
24=	Chile	92	Iraq	160=	Maldives
24=	Israel	93	El Salvador	160=	Surinam
26=	Austria	94	Canada	162	Botswana
26=	Ukraine	95	Moldova	162	Korea DPR
28	Scotland	96	Mozambique	164=	Bermuda
29	Poland	97	Congo	164=	Nepal
30	Tunisia	98	Azerbaijan	166	British Virgin Is.
31	South Africa	99	Liberia	167	Netherlands Antilles
32	Belgium	100	Belarus	168	Eritrea
33	Zambia	101	Singapore	169	Palestine
34=	Republic of Ireland	102	Indonesia	170=	Guinea-Bissau
34=	Turkey	103	Kenya	170=	Guyana
36	Bulgaria	104	New Zealand	172	Cambodia
37	Greece	105	Vietnam	173	Chinese Taipei
38=	Egypt	106	Haiti	174	Macao
38=	Saudi Arabia	107	Syria	175	Cape Verde Islands
40	Korea Republic	108	Uganda	176	Tonga
41	Uruguay	109	Lebanon	177	Samoa
42	Trinidad and Tobago	110	Faroe Islands	178=	Cook Islands
43=	Hungary	111	Venezuela	178=	Papua New Guinea
43=	Jamaica	112	Malawi	180	Philippines
45	Peru	113	Barbados	181	Pakistan
46=	Lithuania	114	India	182	Vanuatu
46=	Ghana	115	Jordan	183	Puerto Rico
48	Ivory Coast	116	Sierra Leone	184	Brunei Darussalam
49	Iceland	117	Malaysia	185	Chad
50	Iran	118	Kazakhstan	186	Aruba
51	Japan	119	Malta	187=	Bahamas
52	Slovenia	120	Sudan	187=	Belize
53	Switzerland	121	Mauritius	187=	Seychelles
54	Cameroon	122	Grenada	190=	Nicaragua
55	Bolivia	123	Tanzania	191=	US Virgin Islands
56=	Angola	124	Bahrain	192	Djibouti
56=	Kuwait	125	Luxembourg	193	Turks and Caicos Is.
58	Finland	126	Turkmenistan	194	Equatorial Guinea
59=	China PR	127	Myanmar	195	Sao Tome e Principe
59=	Ecuador	128	Liechtenstein	196	Somalia
61	Congo DR (Zaire)	129	Fiji	197	Central African Rep.
62=	Georgia	129	Swaziland	198=	Mongolia
62=	Latvia	131	Tajikistan	198=	American Samoa
64	Australia	132	Burundi	200	Guam
65	UAE	133	Madagascar	201=	Anguilla
66	Thailand	134	Tahiti	201=	Montserrat
67	Costa Rica	135	Benin		
68=	FYR Macedonia	136	St Kitts & Nevis		

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW THIS THURSDAY

FIFA said last week that the World Club Championship will become a regular fixture on the international calendar beginning next year.

The inaugural championship will take place from January 5 to 14 in Brazil. It will highlight eight club sides from all over the world.

Manchester United, Saudi Arabia club Al-Nasr, Vasco da Gama and Corinthians of Brazil, Spain's Real Madrid, Australia's South Melbourne, and Mexican side Necaxa have qualified so far. An African entrant will not be determined until December.

Meanwhile, the draw for the first edition of the inaugural FIFA Club

World Championship in Brazil will take place at the Golden Room of the Copacabana Palace Hotel in Rio de Janeiro this Thursday (October 14).

The eight participating teams will be divided into two groups of four with the group winners meeting in the final and the group runners-up meeting in the third place match.

Region	Club	Qualified
The Football Confederation	Necaxa (Mexico)	Winner of the 1999 CONCACAF Champions' Cup
Asian Football Confederation	Al-Nasr (Saudi Arabia)	Winner of the 1998 Asian Super Cup
Confederation of African Football	To Be Determined	Winner of the African Champions' League 1999 (decided 12/12/99)
CONMEBOL	Vasco da Gama (Brazil)	Winner of the 1998 Copa Libertadores
Oceania Football Confederation	South Melbourne (Australia)	Winner of 1999 Oceania Champions Cup
UEFA	Manchester United (England)	Winner of the 1999 Champions' League
Toyota Cup	Real Madrid (Spain)	Winner of 1998 Toyota Cup
Brazil	Corinthians (Brazil)	Champions of Brazilian League (host country)

NECAXA IS TEAM NO. 7

Necaxa of Mexico became the seventh team to qualify for the inaugural FIFA Club World Championship in Brazil with a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Alajuela of Costa Rica in Las Vegas.

Necaxa earns one of eight spots in the prestigious tournament as representatives of The Football Confederation (formerly CONCACAF).

Alex Aguinaga completed his tournament MVP performance with a flying scissor-kick volley from 10 yards out on a perfectly placed cross from the ubiquitous Edgar David Oliva to tie the score at 1-1.

The winning goal came in the 66th minute for Necaxa after tournament goal leader Agustin Delgado hit a cross from the left wing that was redirected on goal by Oliva. Oliva's touch deflected off Alajuela goalkeeper Alvaro Messen to the centre of the goalkeeper area where an onrushing Sergio Vasquez slammed it home.

Alajuela jumped out in front on a 35th-minute penalty kick goal from Josef Miso, after the forward was tripped at the edge of the penalty area by Necaxa defender Jaime Hernandez.

The Costa Rican club could have went ahead 2-1 just one minute after the ejection of Necaxa midfielder German Villa in the 56th minute, but Josef Miso missed a penalty kick after being fouled a second time in the box by Hernandez.



Necaxa players celebrates victory.



MAN U WANT 4 TEAMS AXED

European champions Manchester United believe the English Premier League should be cut to 16 teams from its current 20, deputy chief executive Peter Kenyon told reporters last week.

Kenyon said United had long argued for a smaller Premier League and that the enlarged European Champions' League, now a 32-team competition, reinforced that view.

"We felt there needed to be a reduction in the numbers and that [the enlarged Champions' League] has done nothing to change our opinion," Kenyon said.

Kenyon said he believed 16 teams would be the optimum number for the Premier League. Such proposals would meet strong resistance from the bulk of Premier League teams, fearful of lost revenue from a smaller number of fixtures and the increased risk of relegation from the elite.

The new Champions' League format means a team would have to play 17 games to win the competition this season, up from 11 under the previous format.

United, Arsenal and Chelsea are the English teams in this season's Champions' League and their domestic performances have tended to dip after big midweek European ties.

United were hammered 5-0 last Sunday week but ironically this defeat came at the hands of fellow Champions' League contenders Chelsea.

7.5% SOLD FOR \$100M

Manchester United boss Martin Edwards was around 41 million pounds (\$102 million) richer last Wednesday after selling a 7.5 percent chunk of the club, stock market sources said.

In a move that may ease Edwards towards the position of Chairman of Manchester United rather than Chief Executive, Edwards sold 19.5 million shares to cut his stake to 6.5 percent.

Sources said the shares in the world's richest soccer club had been sold at a price of 210p each.

In July, Britain's Daily Mail said the Sultan of Brunei, one of the world's richest men, was reported to be seeking to buy Edwards's stake. A wealthy Anglo-Irish group of racehorse owners was also said to be interested.

A chairman normally plays a more "hands off" role and a large shareholding could conflict with the duties of that position.

The Edwards family has run the club since the 1960s and Edwards has played a key role since 1980 when he took over the running from his late father Louis Edwards.

United achieved an unprecedented treble last season, winning the premier league, the F.A. Cup and the European Cup.

Edwards came under fire from a vocal group of United supporters last year when the board agreed to sell the club to Rupert Murdoch pay TV company BSkyB.

But the deal was blocked by the British government on competition grounds.

Kenyon's words are sure to be warmly received by UEFA, European soccer's ruling body, who have long advocated a reduction in the size of bigger top divisions.

Spain, like England, has a top division of 20 teams and has also come under pressure for UEFA in the past to reduce the number.

Kenyon was speaking as United

reported a 20 percent jump in annual operating profit to 32.3 million pounds (\$81 million) on the back of its treble triumph last season.

United, regarded as the world's richest soccer club, said plans to increase seating at its Old Trafford stadium were ahead of schedule and that it would have a capacity of 67,400 from August 2000 — a year earlier than planned.

The stadium in Manchester, north-west England, currently holds some 55,000 people.

United, winners of the domestic premier league and F.A. Cup double as well as the European Cup, said turnover jumped 26 percent to 110.7 million pounds — the first time a club has broken through the 100 million pound level.



Andy Cole tries to evade the tackle of Chelsea's Didier Deschamps.

WES OUT FOR SEASON

Wes Brown will be out for the rest of the season after breaking down in training.

The Manchester United and England defender, who damaged his cruciate ligaments in a pre-season friendly in July, has said that he will need surgery: "I've been back in training and I've tried it, but it keeps on giving so we've decided to have the op done."

"The running is fine and it was just the tackling, lunging in, getting back up quickly, turning and those sort of things which were making it unstable. I've tried to do it, but it's not worked so we're just going to get it done."



"Hopefully in a few months it should be back to normal, but it will probably be next season before I play again. Next season is the target and anything else, like a game

for the reserves or youth team this season, would be a bonus."

The news is a massive blow for Alex Ferguson, who watched United — already missing Gary Neville, David May, and Ronny Johnsen through injury — lose their last game 5-0 to Chelsea.

Brown added: "At one stage I thought it would be fine so when I did go back I thought let's push it now and see what happens, but it gave. There's no use in making it worse so we just decided to have it done."

"It's just not stable enough and there's nothing else I can do but have the op."

PROFITS INCREASE BY 20%

Manchester United, considered the world's richest soccer club, has seen its operating profits increase by 20 percent to \$53.6 million.

However, the club reported last week a 22 percent decrease in full-year net income after spending on high-salaried players was taken into account.

Net income for the year ended July dropped to US\$27.8 million from US\$32.5 million. The club reported sales were up 26 percent to US\$183.8 million from increased gate receipts and sponsorship revenue.

Manchester United, the first English club to win Europe's triple crown — European Champions Cup, league title and domestic F.A. Cup — has spent heavily on player salaries in recent years to remain competitive in the 20-team English Premier League.

United said player salary costs increased by US\$12.8 million during the year.

The financial report came a day after the club sustained a humiliating 5-0 loss at league-rival Chelsea, Manchester United's first league defeat in 30 matches.



Nicky Butt: One of Man U's highly paid stars.



WORLD

ITALY'S LAZIO
SIGN 'CHINA
SHOP BULL'

Martin Palermo: Lazio's new signing.

Argentine striker Martin Palermo will join Lazio in January.

The Boca Juniors hitman is as atypical as they come, not just because of his bleached hair.

He's the prototypical bull in a china shop.

An Argentine Christian Vieri on a good day, a waste of space on a bad one.

Palermo missed three three penalties in a single game for Argentina during this year's Copa America.

However, most pundits believe he's a good buy for Lazio who will be paying him about \$3 million a season for five years.

He'll add even more depth to the strike force and, if he gets time to settle in, could link up well with Marcelo Salas.

WE'LL COME BACK

Kevin Gallacher is an excited man at the moment — although there is also a fair amount of relief inside the Scottish international's mind.

The 32-year-old spent seven years at Ewood Park, during which time he picked up a championship medal in 1995, but that was as good as it got for the former Coventry and Dundee United man.

Only 16 appearances and five goals last term was grim enough, but the final humiliation, relegation from the Premiership, had not been on the agenda.

Now, he has escaped from his Division One nightmare, and has been reunited with his former strike partner, Alan Shearer, he could not be happier with the way things

have worked out.

"I must admit, I was worried about what was going to happen, and I was a bit down in the dumps. But now it's all been resolved, I'm determined to make the most of it," said Gallacher.



"You've only got to look at the quality of players here at Newcastle to realise the potential around the place, it's quite awesome. The team might be in a false position,

but the table does not lie. We have to win four or five games if we are to make inroads on the others.

"The place is buzzing, and the players are laughing and joking. The manager's so enthusiastic and there is only one place this club can go, and that's upwards."

The Scot, who played for all but seven minutes of the win over Middlesbrough on October 3, is also backing his former Rovers colleague Alan Shearer to keep his magnificent run going, and hit the top of the goalscoring charts.

"He's looking so sharp, and he's got such great self-belief. I think he can easily get back to scoring 30 goals a season, provided the team can keep creating the chances," he said.



Kevin Gallacher (centre) battles with Middlesbrough's Robbie Mustoe as Alan Shearer (left) looks on.

KANU
& CO.
CAN DO

Arsenal star Nwankwo Kanu still believes that Arsenal can have a successful season this year, despite their loss against West Ham on October 3.

Earlier in the season, Gunners boss Arsene Wenger stated that Arsenal could afford to lose no more than 3 games if they were to have any chance of winning the league. However, they have now reached that mark after only 10 games, yet Kanu still believes that Arsenal can win trophies.

The bandy-legged striker said: "We have the players who are physically and mentally strong enough to win everything. I think we can win the title and the Champions League. If anyone can, it's Arsenal. We have the players and our own style, as Manchester United did last year.

"But you need to be lucky too. And the most important thing is winning it — it doesn't matter how. We just have to keep our heads and we can achieve anything. I have played with great players — but at Arsenal I play with some of the best. They never give up and never give anything away."

RANGERS SLAM PLANS TO DUMP SCOTLAND



Rangers have dismissed a plan by arch-rivals Celtic that they should both quit Scottish football to join a proposed European league involving top clubs from the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal.

Rangers chairman David Murray said last Wednesday his Scottish champions were fully committed to the Premier League.

Celtic say they want to leave it within five years to join the so-called North Atlantic League mooted by Ajax recently.

"Celtic are entitled to their own vision of the future," said Murray,

"but I don't think it is very practical."

Murray says Celtic should concentrate their efforts on the European Champions League, which Rangers are currently involved in.

"We feel a sense of responsibility (to the Premier League) and we see the main priority being to ensure that Scotland is one of the countries which gets two representatives in the Champions League, which is a great incentive for all the clubs, not just Celtic."

Murray cited Hearts as an example of co-operation within the Premier League.

The Edinburgh club agreed last Wednesday to postpone their league match at Ibrox on October 23 to give Rangers a chance to prepare for their final Champions League Group F match with Bayern Munich.

"Hearts could have taken the short term view and played us between two difficult European ties, against Valencia and Bayern Munich, but they looked at the broader picture. "They know that if Rangers do well it can only be beneficial to Scottish football," Murray said.



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES



Boudewijn Zenden of the Netherlands.

NETHERLANDS

2

BRAZIL

2

The Netherlands let slip a two-goal lead and missed a penalty to draw 2-2 with Brazil in a friendly at the Amsterdam Arena, in a game which began slowly but turned into a thriller.

The Dutch struck first blood when they went ahead thanks to a 37th minute own goal when Brazilian Roberto Carlos knocked in Arsenal winger Dennis Bergkamp's cross.

The Netherlands pushed forward and went 2-0 up less than 10 minutes later when another Bergkamp cross found an unmarked Boudewijn Zenden, who headed it easily past Brazilian 'keeper Dida.

The Brazilians however fought back, and in the second half it was their turn to get on the score-sheet as Roberto Carlos redeemed himself in the 55th minute, converting a loose ball on the left.

One minute later and a tackle on Zenden earned the Dutch a penalty, but Patrick Kluivert's feeble

shot was no challenge for Dida, who saved it easily.

The miss was to prove costly as Brazilian defender Cafu drew level for Brazil in the 72nd minute, when his long-range shot went in off the post, leaving Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar, who otherwise put in a fine performance, with no chance.

The draw means the Dutch, coached by Frank Rijkaard, have yet to win in 10 games.

ENGLAND

2

BELGIUM

1

An electrifying 25-metre drive from Jamie Redknapp after 67 minutes gave an experimental England side a well-deserved 2-1 victory over Belgium in a friendly international at Sunderland's Stadium Park. It was Redknapp's first goal for his country in his 15th international.

England had earlier taken the lead after six minutes with an overhead kick from skipper Alan

Shearer before Belgium equalised through a Branko Strupar strike after great work from Sheffield Wednesday star Gilles de Bilde.

The win was even sweeter for the English following the news that Sweden's victory over Poland in Stockholm had put England into the Euro 2000 playoffs.

DENMARK

0

IRAN

0

At home Denmark were expected to breeze past Iran and as expected they dominated most of the game but had to settle for a disappointing goalless draw in a friendly against Iran at the Parken stadium.

The Danes created half a dozen excellent chances but failed to score as Iranian goalkeeper Hadi Mirtabatabaei made a number of superb saves, the best of them a fierce header by FC Schalke 04 striker Ebbe Sand in the first half.

Aston Villa's Report Card

Aston Villa's main problem this season has been the volume of goals that have been scored.

With just eleven to their name, fewer than all the teams above them in the Premiership, Villa have yet to hit top form up front.

Dion Dublin and Julian Joachim, so potent last season, have again scored the bulk of the goals but Villa have begun to create a name for themselves as the one-goal-wonders of the Premiership, having only scored more than one goal in two of their league matches.

Their form against north-east clubs has, though, been ominous so far - beating

both Middlesbrough and Newcastle at opposite ends of August. The score in those games ... 1-0!

Whilst Villa have struggled to score many goals, Sunderland seem to be knocking them in for fun, scoring 18 league goals already this season, most coming during their current six-match unbeaten run in the league.

Villa have also proved their defensive prowess, conceding just nine goals so far, a total bettered only by three clubs, Chelsea, West Ham and Sunderland. The Villans have also kept six clean sheets, which puts them joint top of the table with Sunderland in that area.

Villa are currently the fifth best tacklers in the Premiership, with a 59% tackle success rate, whilst Sunderland have seen 58% of tackles being successful.

Aston Villa Statistics		OPTA
Goals	11	
Average Goals Scored per game	1.10	
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	80	
% Shots on Target	44%	
% Goals to Shots	14%	
Short Passes	3200	
Long Passes	558	
Overall Pass Completion %	72%	
Total Crosses	183	
Cross Completion %	31%	
Goals Conceded	9	
Average Goals Conceded per game	0.90	
Tackles	214	
Tackles Won %	59%	
Blocks, Clearances & Interceptions	653	
Fouls	140	
Yellow Cards	22	
Red Cards	1	



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ZAGALLO SACKED!

Veteran Brazilian coach Mario Zagallo, one of the great names in international soccer, was sacked by Portuguesa last week after nine months at the modest Sao Paulo club.

"The Old Wolf," who led his country to World Cup victory in 1970 and runners-up spot last year in separate stints as national team coach, was fired due to poor recent results.

Portuguesa are 20th in the 22-team Brazilian championship after a run of seven matches without a win, though they are in no immediate danger of relegation which is decided on a points average over two seasons.

Zagallo was fired by Brazil after the World Cup last year but, instead of taking the easy option of retirement, accepted the new challenge of his first job in Sao Paulo when he took over at Portuguesa.

His goal was to bring "Lusa," a team rarely watched by more than a few thousand fans, their first title since the 1973 Paulista (Sao Paulo state) championship.

Despite their small following, Portuguesa have improved in the last few years, reaching the Brazilian championship final in 1996.

In the first half of the year Portuguesa claimed some impressive wins in the Paulista championship but were eventually edged out of the semi-



Mario Zagallo: Sacked by his club.

finals by the big four — Santos, Sao Paulo, Corinthians and Palmeiras.

Zagallo is intensely proud of his record as the only man involved in four World Cup-winning sides — as player in 1958 and 1962, when he was Brazil's left-winger, coach in 1970 and

assistant to Carlos Alberto Parreira in 1994. He also led Brazil to fourth place in the 1974 World Cup.

He is the 16th coach to have been sacked or resigned since the Brazilian championship began at the end of July.

NUMBER ONE

Christian Vieri (right) has been voted player of the season for 1998-99 by members of the Association of Italian Footballers.

The Italian international is now with Inter Milan after leaving Lazio in June in a world record \$74 million transfer.

Fiorentina's Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta was voted the top foreign player in Serie A, while Francesco Totti of Roma was named young player of the season.

Alberto Zaccheroni, who coached AC Milan to the title, was the players' coach of the season.

Lazio, who missed out to Milan by just a point in the race for the Serie A title, received some consolation. They were voted "team of the season".



KICK-OFF: JUNE 1, 2002

South Korea will play host to the opening match of the next World Cup on June 1, 2002, with the final to take place June 30 in Japan, international soccer officials said last Saturday.

The dates for the World Cup were set at a FIFA executive committee meeting, at which Asian countries also formally agreed to accept a plan

for the number of places per continent in the tournament.

Under the plan, Asia will get a chance for a fifth spot in the World Cup in a play-off with Europe, essentially the same terms that provoked a walkout by Asian delegates to a FIFA meeting in Los Angeles in July and threats of a possible World Cup boycott.

The June 1 kick-off is the earliest

since 1986 when the tournament was played in Mexico and started May 31. Last year's World Cup in France began on June 10.

Committee officials had discussed starting the finals even earlier to try to avoid the area's rainy season, but European soccer officials protested successfully that a May kick-off was out of the question.

TV GUIDE

* All times are Australian Eastern Standard Time

Tuesday, October 12

EURO 2000 Qualifier
Bulgaria v Luxembourg
Optus Vision (ESPN)
12am - 2am (Wednesday morning)

Wednesday, October 13

EURO 2000 Qualifier
Wales v Switzerland
Optus Vision (ESPN)
1pm - 3pm

EURO 2000 Qualifier

Austria v Cyprus
Optus Vision (ESPN)
5pm - 7pm

English Premier League Show

Fox Sports
7.30pm-9pm

Thursday, October 14

EURO 2000 Qualifier
Scotland v Lithuania
Optus Vision (ESPN)
9pm - 11pm

Soccer Central
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
9pm - 10pm

Friday, October 15

National Soccer League
Northern Spirit v Newcastle (LIVE)
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
7.30pm - 9.30pm

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
5.30pm-6.30pm

Saturday, October 16

National Soccer League
Wollongong v Sydney Olympic
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
10pm - 12am

National Soccer League
Kingz FC v Sth Melbourne
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
8pm-10pm

European Champions League
highlights
SBS
3.30pm-4.30pm

World Soccer
UEFA Cup - Celta Vigo (Spa) v
Lausanne (Swi)
SBS
4.30pm-5.30pm

English Premier League (Repeat)
SBS
5.30pm-6.30pm

French Premier League

PSG v Marseilles
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
10am - 12pm

Italian Serie A (LIVE)

Optus Vision (ESPN)
10.55pm - 1am

Spanish Primera Division

Fox Sports
1pm-3pm

English Premier League preview

Fox Sports
6pm-6.30pm

English Premier League

Fox Sports
1am-3am (Sunday morning)

Sunday, October 17

National Soccer League highlights
ABC TV
5pm - 7pm

Italian Serie A

SBS
10.30am-11.30am

On the Ball

SBS
11.30am-12.30pm

National Soccer League
Marconi v Carlton
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm - 9.30pm

Best of English League
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
10.30pm - 12am

English Premier League
West Ham v Middlesbrough
Fox Sports 2
11.55pm-3.30am

Monday, October 18

Dutch football
Optus Vision (ESPN)
NEC v Ajax
11pm - 1am

English Premier League highlights
SBS
7.30pm-8.30pm

English Premier League
Sunderland v Aston Villa
Fox Sports
4am-7.30am (Tuesday morning)



GROUP ONE

Belarus	0-1	Switzerland
Denmark	1-2	Italy
Wales	0-2	Italy
Belarus	0-0	Denmark
Italy	2-0	Switzerland
Denmark	1-2	Wales
Wales	3-2	Belarus
Switzerland	1-1	Denmark
Switzerland	2-0	Wales
Italy	1-1	Belarus
Denmark	1-0	Belarus
Italy	0-0	Wales
Switzerland	0-0	Italy
Wales	0-2	Denmark
Belarus	1-2	Wales
Denmark	2-1	Switzerland
Switzerland	2-0	Belarus
Italy	2-3	Denmark
Wales	0-2	Switzerland
Belarus	0-0	Italy

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	8	4	3	1	13	5	15
Denmark	8	4	2	2	11	8	14
Switzerland	8	4	2	2	9	5	14
Wales	8	3	0	5	7	16	9
Belarus	8	0	3	5	4	10	3

GROUP TWO

Georgia	1-1	Slovenia
Greece	0-2	Norway
Georgia	1-0	Albania
Greece	2-2	Slovenia
Norway	1-3	Latvia
Slovenia	1-2	Norway
Latvia	1-0	Georgia
Norway	2-2	Albania
Greece	3-0	Georgia
Slovenia	1-0	Latvia
Albania	0-0	Greece
Latvia	0-0	Greece
Albania	0-0	Latvia
Georgia	1-4	Norway
Norway	1-0	Georgia
Albania	1-2	Norway
Georgia	1-2	Greece
Latvia	1-2	Slovenia
Greece	1-2	Latvia
Albania	0-1	Slovenia
Slovenia	2-0	Albania
Norway	1-0	Greece
Latvia	3-3	Albania
Slovenia	2-1	Georgia
Norway	4-0	Slovenia
Georgia	2-2	Latvia
Greece	2-0	Albania
Albania	2-1	Georgia
Slovenia	0-3	Greece
Latvia	1-2	Norway

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	10	8	1	1	21	9	25
Slovenia	10	5	2	3	12	14	17
Greece	10	4	3	3	13	8	15
Latvia	10	3	4	3	13	12	13
Albania	10	1	4	5	8	14	7
Georgia	10	1	2	7	8	18	5

GROUP THREE

N Ireland	0-3	Germany
Turkey	2-0	Moldova
Finland	3-2	Moldova
Turkey	3-0	N Ireland
Turkey	1-0	Germany
N Ireland	1-0	Finland
Moldova	1-3	Germany
Turkey	1-3	Finland
N Ireland	2-2	Moldova
Germany	2-0	Finland
Moldova	0-0	N Ireland
Germany	6-1	Moldova
Finland	2-4	Turkey
Moldova	0-0	Finland
Finland	1-2	Germany
N Ireland	0-3	Turkey
Germany	4-0	N Ireland
Moldova	1-1	Turkey
Germany	0-0	Turkey
Finland	4-1	N Ireland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	8	6	1	1	20	4	19
Turkey	8	5	2	1	15	6	17
Finland	8	3	1	4	13	13	10
Nth Ireland	8	1	2	5	4	19	5
Moldova	8	0	4	4	7	17	4

GROUP FOUR

Andorra	0-2	Iceland
Armenia	0-3	Russia
France	0-0	Ukraine
Armenia	3-1	Andorra
Ukraine	3-2	Russia
Iceland	1-1	France
Andorra	0-2	Ukraine
Russia	2-3	France
Armenia	0-0	Iceland
Ukraine	2-0	Armenia
France	2-0	Andorra
Iceland	1-0	Russia
Ukraine	1-1	Iceland
Russia	6-1	Andorra
France	2-0	Armenia
Ukraine	4-0	Andorra
France	2-3	Russia
Iceland	2-0	Armenia
Armenia	0-0	Ukraine
Russia	1-0	Iceland
Andorra	0-1	France
Ukraine	0-0	France
Iceland	3-0	Andorra
Russia	2-0	Armenia
Andorra	1-2	Russia
Iceland	0-1	Ukraine
Armenia	2-3	France
France	3-2	Iceland
Russia	1-1	Ukraine
Andorra	0-3	Armenia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	10	6	3	1	17	10	21
Ukraine	10	5	5	0	14	4	20
Russia	10	6	1	3	22	12	19
Iceland	10	4	3	3	12	7	15
Armenia	10	2	2	6	8	15	8
Andorra	10	0	0	10	3	28	0

GROUP SIX

Spain	9-0	Austria
Austria	1-1	Israel
Cyprus	3-2	Spain
Cyprus	0-3	Austria
San Marino	0-5	Israel
Israel	1-2	Spain
San Marino	1-4	Austria
San Marino	0-1	Cyprus
Cyprus	4-0	San Marino
Israel	3-0	Cyprus
San Marino	0-6	Spain
Austria	7-0	San Marino
Spain	9-0	San Marino
Israel	5-0	Austria
Austria	1-3	Spain
Cyprus	3-2	Israel
Spain	6-0	Cyprus
Israel	8-0	San Marino
Spain	3-0	Israel
Austria	3-1	Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	8	7	0	1	42	5	21
Israel	8	4	1	3	25	9	13
Austria	8	4	1	3	19	20	13
Cyprus	8	4	0	4	12	21	12
San Marino	8	0	0	8	1	44	0

GROUP SEVEN

Portugal	7-0	Azerbaijan
Hungary	5-0	Liechtenstein
Romania	7-0	Liechtenstein
Slovakia	3-0	Azerbaijan
Hungary	1-3	Portugal
Portugal	0-1	Romania
Liechtenstein	0-4	Slovakia
Azerbaijan	0-4	Hungary
Slovakia	0-3	Portugal
Hungary	1-1	Romania
Liechtenstein	2-1	Azerbaijan
Slovakia	0-0	Hungary
Liechtenstein	0-5	Portugal
Azerbaijan	0-1	Romania
Azerbaijan	4-0	Liechtenstein
Romania	2-0	Hungary
Portugal	1-0	Slovakia
Romania	4-0	Azerbaijan
Hungary	0-1	Slovakia
Portugal	8-0	Liechtenstein
Azerbaijan	1-1	Portugal
Slovakia	1-2	Romania
Liechtenstein	0-0	Hungary
Romania	1-1	Portugal
Slovakia	2-0	Liechtenstein
Hungary	3-0	Azerbaijan
Liechtenstein	0-3	Romania
Azerbaijan	0-1	Slovakia
Portugal	3-0	Hungary

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	10	7	3	0	25	3	24
Portugal	10	7	2	1	32	4	23
Slovakia	10	5	2	3	12	9	17
Hungary	10	3	3	4	14	10	12
Azerbaijan	10	1	1	8	6	26	4
Liechtenstein	10	1	1	8	2	39	4

GROUP EIGHT

Rep of Ireland	2-0	Croatia
Macedonia	4-0	Malta
Malta	1-4	Croatia
Yugoslavia	1-0	Rep of Ireland
Rep of Ireland	5-0	Malta
Croatia	3-2	Macedonia
Malta	1-2	Macedonia
Malta	0-3	Yugoslavia
Macedonia	1-1	Croatia
Yugoslavia	4-1	Malta
Rep of Ireland	1-0	Macedonia
Croatia	2-1	Malta
Yugoslavia	0-0	Croatia
Rep of Ireland	2-1	Yugoslavia
Croatia	1-0	Rep of Ireland
Yugoslavia	3-1	Macedonia
Malta	2-3	Rep of Ireland
Macedonia	2-4	Yugoslavia
Macedonia	1-1	Rep of Ireland
Croatia	2-2	Yugoslavia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	8	5	2	1	18	8	17
Ireland	8	5	1	2	14	6	16
Croatia	8	4	3	1	13	9	15
Macedonia	8	2	2	4	13	14	8
Malta	8	0	0	8	6	27	0

GROUP NINE

Czech Rep	2-0	Lithuania
Estonia	5-0	Faroe Islands
Bosnia	1-0	Faroe Islands
Bosnia	1-1	Estonia
Lithuania	0-0	Scotland
Faroe Islands	0-1	Czech Rep
Bosnia	1-3	Czech Rep
Lithuania	0-0	Faroe Islands
Scotland	3-2	Estonia
Lithuania	4-2	Bosnia
Scotland	2-1	Faroe Islands
Czech Rep	4-1	Estonia
Lithuania	1-2	Estonia
Scotland	1-2	Czech Rep
Estonia	0-2	Czech Rep
Faroe Islands	1-1	Scotland
Bosnia	2-0	Lithuania
Estonia	1-2	Lithuania
Faroe Islands	2-2	Bosnia
Czech Rep	3-2	Scotland
Bosnia	1-2	Scotland
Faroe Islands	0-2	Estonia
Lithuania	0-4	Czech Rep
Czech Rep	3-0	Bosnia
Estonia	0-0	Scotland
Faroe Islands	0-1	Lithuania
Scotland	1-0	Bosnia
Estonia	1-4	Bosnia
Czech Rep	2-1	Faroe Islands
Scotland	3-0	Lithuania

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Rep	10	10	0	0	26	5	30
Scotland	10	5	3	2	15	10	18
Bosnia	10	3	2	5	14	17	11
Lithuania	10	3	2	5	8	16	11
Estonia	10	3	2	5	15	17	11
Faroe Islands	10	0	3	7	4	17	3

Championship Qualifiers

GROUP FIVE

Sweden	2-1	England
Bulgaria	0-3	Poland
Poland	3-0	Luxembourg
England	0-0	Bulgaria
Bulgaria	0-1	Sweden
Luxembourg	0-3	England
Luxembourg	0-2	Bulgaria
Poland	0-1	Sweden
England	3-1	Poland
Sweden	2-0	Luxembourg
Poland	2-0	Bulgaria
England	0-0	Sweden
Bulgaria	1-1	England
Luxembourg	2-3	Poland
Sweden	1-0	Bulgaria
England	6-0	Luxembourg
Luxembourg	0-1	Sweden
Poland	0-0	England
Sweden	2-0	Poland
Bulgaria	3-0	Luxembourg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	8	7	1	0	10	1	22
England	8	3	4	1	14	4	13
Poland	8	4	1	3	12	8	13
Bulgaria	8	2	2	4	6	8	8
Luxembourg	8	0	0	8	2	23	0

THE FINALISTS SO FAR

Belgium	- (co-hosts)
Netherlands	- (co-hosts)
Italy	- Winner Group 1
Norway	- Winner Group 2
Germany	- Winner Group 3
France	- Winner Group 4
Sweden	- Winner Group 5
Spain	- Winner Group 6
Romania	- Winner Group 7
Yugoslavia	- Winner Group 8
Czech Republic	- Winner Group 9
Portugal	- best second-placed team (Group 7)

THE EIGHT GROUP RUNNERS-UP WHO GO INTO NEXT MONTH'S PLAY-OFFS FOR THE FOUR FINAL PLACES:

Denmark	- Runner-up Group 1
Slovenia	- Runner-up Group 2
Turkey	- Runner-up Group 3
Ukraine	- Runner-up Group 4
England	- Runner-up Group 5
Israel	- Runner-up Group 6
Ireland	- Runner-up Group 8
Scotland	- Runner-up Group 9

GROUP 1

Italy clinched a place in next year's EURO 2000 finals with a disappointing goalless draw against Belarus in the pouring rain in Minsk.

Stunned by their recent home setback against Denmark, Italy were by far the better side throughout, the best chance falling to striker Christian Vieri who created space in the box, only to see his fierce 18-yard drive hit the woodwork and rebound to safety.

Switzerland punished Wales' defensive weaknesses without mercy to end their EURO 2000 qualifying campaign on a winning note at Wrexham winning by 2-0 with goals by Alexandre Rey and Patrick Bühlmann. The Swiss finished level with Denmark in the Group One table, but miss out on next year's final round to the Danes by virtue of their record against Denmark in the direct encounters between the two teams.

GROUP 2

Constant rain made conditions difficult in Riga but a 14th minute strike by Ole Gunnar Solskjær seven minutes after the restart gave Norway the lead, however Latvia equalised within a minute through Marian Pahars.

The equaliser took the sting out of the match but which Tore Andre Flo sprung life back into the contest provided the visitors with all three points four minutes before time.

Slovenia ended their campaign with a 3-0 home defeat to Greece that was hardly the perfect warm-up for their forthcoming play-off clash.

Goals from Vasilis Tsertis-Tsartas, Georgios Georgiadis and Nikolaidis secured a 3-0 win.

Despite the win, Greece still finished two points adrift of Slovenia in third place.

Albania savoured their first win avoiding last place in by beating Georgia 2-1.

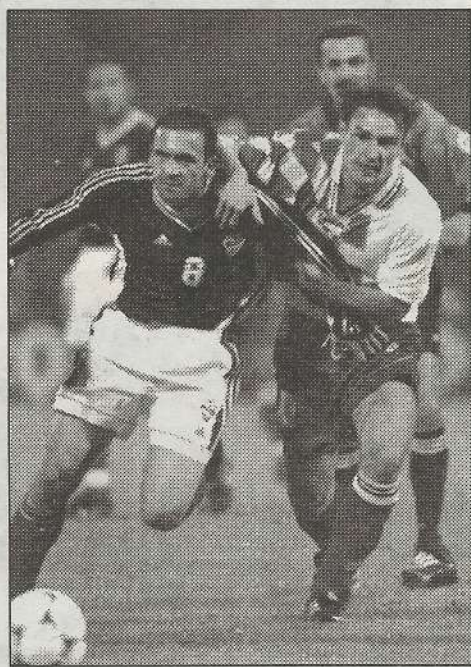
GROUP 3

Germany rode their luck, keeping a clean sheet against Turkey and earning the point they needed to qualify for next year's EURO 2000. Turkey must now qualify through the playoffs.

Northern Ireland ended a poor campaign in disappointing fashion going down to Finland by 4-1.

GROUP 4

Russian goalkeeper Alexandre Filimonov made a dramatic last-gasp mistake that will haunt him for the rest of his life allowing Ukraine to move into the Playoffs at the expense of Russia. Two minutes from time, with his team a goal up, and apparently heading towards EURO 2000,



Predrag Mijatovic of Yugoslavia and Robert Kovac of Croatia.



France's David Trezeguet and Zinedine Zidane shake hands after their 3-2 win over Ireland.

Filimonov fumbled a cross from Andrii Shevchenko and watched in horror as the ball crossed the line. This awful "clanger", coupled with France's narrow win over Iceland in Paris, left a desperately tight group completely overturned. France went through as group-winners – the Ukrainians face the qualifying play-offs as group runners-up – and Russia somehow find themselves out in the cold.

In Paris, the World champions went straight into next year's Euro 2000 although at one stage they looked out after being level at 2-2 with Iceland and with Russia leading against the Ukraine.

David Trézéguet was the saviour after early goals by Youri Djorkaeff and an own goal which were cancelled two second half Iceland goals.

GROUP 5

Sweden finished their splendid campaign on a triumphant note with a success in Solna which dashed Poland's dream.

Kennet Andersson's 64th-minute strike and a last-minute clincher from Henrik Larsson sealed the match – and left England celebrating a last-gasp passage into the qualifying competition play-offs by virtue of their win and draw against Poland in the direct qualifying encounters.

And in Sofia, former striking star Hristo Stoichkov celebrated his debut as Bulgaria assistant coach with a comfortable 3-0 victory against Luxembourg.

GROUP 6

Spain recorded their seventh successive win to confirm their undoubted superiority in Group Six with a 3-0 defeat of Israel but despite the defeat, Israel still finished second in the group and go into the draw for the play-offs for the final round, as chief rivals Cyprus lost to Austria.

Morientes opened the scoring midway through the first half as the Israeli defence failed to clear a corner. César Martin made it two and in the 51st minute, Raul made it three.

Austria ended the European Championship dreams of Cyprus by beating them 3-1 in an ill-tempered match in Vienna.

A Cypriot win would have given them second place and a place in next month's play-offs, but the dismissal of two players made the Cypriots chances of winning away from home all the more difficult.

GROUP 7

Romania secured their place in next year's European Championship final round with a 3-0 victory over minnows Liechtenstein.

Substitute striker Ionel Ganea of German side VfB Stuttgart scored twice in an eight minutes spell in the second half to make sure of the

Romanians' victory this coming after midfielder Laurentiu Rosu opened the scoring after 26 minutes.

Portugal produced a dominate performance to qualify directly for the European Championship final round, with their three-goal winning margin sufficient for them to clinch a place in the finals round as the runners-up with the best record against the top teams in their respective group.

GROUP 8

Ten-man Yugoslavia came back from conceding an early goal to draw 2-2 with Croatia in their clash in Zagreb.

Yugoslavia, who had defender Zoran Mirkovic sent off after 37 minutes, qualify for next year's finals, while Croatia, third in last year's World Cup, miss out even on the play-offs, finishing two points behind the Yugoslavs and one behind the second-placed Republic of Ireland.

Croatia went ahead through Alen Boksic although the goal was cancelled out through a trademark curling free kick from the right by Sinisa Mihajlovic, and Predrag Mijatovic flicked the ball past goalkeeper Drazen Ladic to make it 1-1.

Five minutes later Mihajlovic again turned provider a, as a carbon-copy cross set up his Lazio teammate Dejan Stankovic, who headed in.

Mario Stanic's header gave the Croatians hope but Yugoslavia held on for the draw.

The Republic of Ireland surrendered a chance of finishing in first place three minutes into injury time as a late goal to FYR Macedonia's Goran Stavreski levelled the score at 1 all.

Niall Quinn had put the Irish into the lead in the 19th-minute only for the home side to equalise with almost the last kick of the match.

GROUP 9

The Czech Republic celebrated a perfect qualifying campaign as they struggled to a 2-0 win at home over the Faroe Islands. It was the classy Czechs tenth win out of ten in the group.

Scotland – already safely through to the EURO 2000 qualifying play-offs, gave their confidence another boost with a no-nonsense success over Lithuania at Hampden Park Stadium.

Goals from Don Hutchison, Gary McSwegan and Colin Cameron helped the Scots to victory in a match which they dominated throughout.

A brilliant four-goal display from Real Madrid's sharpshooter Elvir Balic sent Bosnia-Herzegovina cruising to an emphatic success over Estonia in Tallin – and this after the Estonians had taken an early lead.

Andres Opers opened the scoring for the home side but it was the last time they would score as Balic hit the first of his four goals in the 24th minute.



PARRAMATTA POWER



Back Row (L-R): R Plesa, D. Barrett, D. Kukucka, D. Mitchell, J. Vrkic, B. Smith, M. Sterjovski, M. Blagojevic. Front Row (L-R): S. Eagleton, M. Santalab, J. Griffiths, D. Townsend, W. Ardone.